■ **SPECTRUM**

Young Britons find out the meaning of 'Ich bin ein Berliner'

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Mid-February they will arrive in Berlin – forty young British school-leavers who have a few free months on their hands before their studies begin in the autumn. A further 25 will come over in April.

They all want to get to know Berlin – but not as tourists. So they will be living and working for a few months in the city, not just viewing the sights but also learning how the Berliners think and how they live.

First of all they will go to a fortnight's introductory seminar and learn the most important facts about politics, culture, economics and social life in West Berlin. Immediately afterwards they will get the chance to put what they have learnt into practice.

The young Britons will become postmen or work in the sorting offices of the mails, they will be taken on as waiters, maids, warehouse assistants and in many other jobs.

There are two programmes for the young visitors organised by the DBJ, the German-British Youth Exchange scheme, based in West Berlin, giving the young Britons a chance to study Berlin for four or six months. They are called in English "Meet Berlin" and "Be a Berliner".

These programmes were started last year as an experiment. According to the managing chairman of the DBJ Doris Krug they were an outstanding success.

And so it was decided to continue the idea this year, she told the press.

It was a little more difficult finding jobs for the young Britons this year. Although employers last year stated that they were completely satisfied with the way their guests from Great Britain worked for them there were fewer jobs on offer this year, but this was as a result of the more depressed economic situation, Doris Krug said.

Despite the shortage of jobs it was possible in the end to find sufficient employment for the visitors.

The main worry for the exchange scheme organisers now is that they are having difficulty finding suitable accommodation for the "temporary Berliners". What they want is furnished rooms which the young Britons will be able to pay for with the 800 to 1,000 Marks they will earn each month.

And since they will want to live off their own wits in Berlin there will be no question of "mothering" them, No nursemaids! Not that the young Britons will not want to come and have a talk with their hosts now and again.

"Meet Berlin" and "Be a Berliner" are, however, not the only projects in the scope of the DBJ for bringing young people from the British Isles to Berlin.

Between 14 and 18 June there is the Anglo-German "Wiston House Conference" at Glienicke Hunting Lodge at which young managerial staff in the 25 to 35 age bracket take part.

A seminar of young apprentices takes place in two locations. It begins in Liverpool between 7 and 14 August and is continued between 14 and 21 August in Berlin. One of the main subjects to be dealt with is "worker participation in management."

And in September Berlin will again be the venue for the traditional "Anglo-German Youth Talks." For the twelfth time this will bring together youngsters who are interested in politics from both countries. It is known as the "mini-Königswinter" (several youth seminars and the like are held in the Rhineland town of Königswinter). Berliners who are interested can apply to the DBJ to take part in any of these events.

These events represent only one side of the work of the DBJ, which is moreover the only institution of its kind in Berlin or the Federal Republic. Another side of its work which is just as important is the opportunities it offers to young West Germans to visit Britain for a few weeks or months and get to know it.

However, there is no analogous programme to "Meet Berlin" and "Be a Berliner" for Germans. One major part of the programme of events for 1972 is the visits to London which can be arranged for school classes and other groups at almost any time of the year.

Eight-day and fortnight trips are organised at bargain prices and are designed to give a good insight into the British capital and its most important sights.

The youngsters have to make their own arrangements for the return journey to London, but everything else is inclusive. There is a choice of Anglo-German youth rendezvous in Southampton over Easter or during the summers vacs as well as numerous language courses in English seaside resorts such as Scarborough, Poole or Worthing.

Trimesters (terms) at Kettering Technical College lasting for three or four months are open to young Germans under a scheme called "One Term". At the end of the period of study it is possible for the visiting Germans to take the Cambridge Lower Certificate.

Germans in Britain

A scheme entitled "Service and Study" in Coventry has been planned for young people who wish to take part in an international Church project. This involves helping in the social amenities provided by Coventry Cathedral.

According to the DBJ the schemes and projects planned for this year offer the chance of visiting Britain and getting to know the country to between 3,000 and 5,000 West German youngsters.

Ingo von Dahlen

(Der Tagesspiegel, 23 January 1972)

The German Tribune

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Change in Asia is inevitable after Nixon Peking visit

Over and above its optical effect President Nixon's Peking visit is important for American, the Asian peoples and realtions between the rival great powers.

The most committed anti-Communist among the statesmen of the West has extended the hand of greeting to the most unshakeably convinced anti-imperialist of the East.

Ideological opposites pale in significance when countries are intent on settling their vital interests. Common sense prevails over the ardour of political convictions.

Instead of the Cold War and its terminology we are now witnessing an attempt, continuing power-political viewpoints notwithstanding, to come to terms with the maintenance of peace in mind.

Mr Nixon's visit to China marks the end of one era and the beginning of a new one, even though the outlines of the new phase may as yet still be vague and unclear.

The mutual isolation of the world's richest nation and the world's most populous country has lasted 22 years. Despite many attempts to connect, including 135 ambassadorial talks in Geneva and Warsaw, the gap between the two appeared to be unbridgeable.

Yet overnight, as it were, the gap narrowed and became bridgeable when President Nixon sought to arrange a visit to Peking and the Chinese leaders sought backing in view of growing pressure brought to bear on their country's frontiers by the Soviet Union..

Mao Tse-tung was looking for a counterbalance and Mr Nixon was anxious to redress one of the most glaringly missed opportunities in America's conduct of world affairs.

He aimed at one and the same time to mobilise the weaker party against the stronger in the enemy camp and to extricate the United States from fateful commitments in Asia. These were the considerations that led to the encounter.

Even so, miracles need not be expected of the Peking talks. His three predecessors' meetings with Soviet leaders did, when all is said and done, prove something of a disappointment.

Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and LBJ met with scant success in their personal encounters with Bulganin, Khrushchev and Kosygin.

Yet their meetings in Geneva, Camp David, Berlin, Vienna and Glassboro frequently gave rise to confusing euphoria and the alleged spirit of understanding soon vanished into thin air.

The few hard and fast agreements reached between East and West, such as the Austrian independence treaty, the test-ban treaty and the Four-Power agreement on Berlin, have been the outcome of long and protracted negotiations conducted by career diplomats, a much-maligned professional body.

Summit meetings, by way of comparison, are, as no less experienced an American foreign policy specialist than George Ball recently pointed out, a return to a long outmoded European tradition of Cabinet politics that is no longer adequate to deal with today's complicated interplay of countries intent on gaining world power.

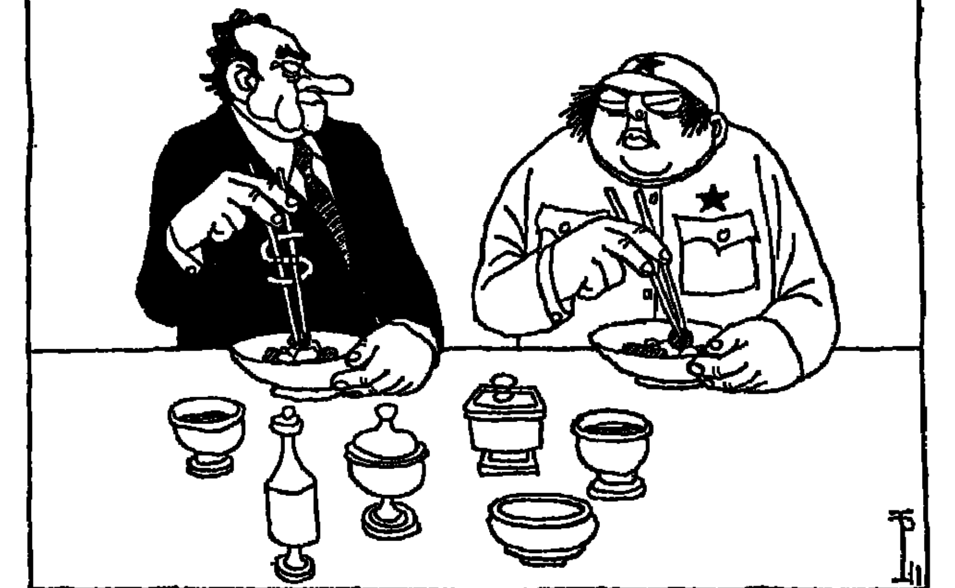
Even so Mr Nixon's personal visit to Peking can be warranted in this instance. By the terms of the American constitution only the President enjoys sufficient authority to preclude all doubts that a decision to reappraise relations with another country is final.

A diplomatic envoy, no matter how convincing a figure he cut, would be no substitute.

What is more, Mr Nixon's visit to China is scheduled to last a full week, longer than an American President has ever spent as the guest of a foreign government. He intends not to waste his time on the tourist round but to get down to serious talks instead.

The long-term target of the Nixon administration's policy in the Far East is to bring about a durable constellation of power capable of preventing serious rivalry from developing into war.

Renunciation of the use of force, maybe even non-aggression pacts, initially between the United States and People's China, later possibly with Japan and the Soviet Union, would be the mainstays of a system of this kind.



Nixon's chopstick problem (Cartoon: Peter Leger/Süddeutsche Zeitung)

But, of course, there is still a long way to go. It is not even clear whether Mr Nixon will be able to return home with more than a fine-sounding communiqué to his name, still less whether any possibilities of resolving Sino-American differences will be found.

There can be no question of full diplomatic realtions between Washington and Peking as long as Taiwan stands between them. At best there may conceivably be an exchange of semi-diplomatic missions by way of a substitute.

No decision of Vietnam will be reached. At best the two men may move in the direction of agreement. China is asking a great deal of America, which surrounds the Asian continental giant with military bastions. Yet Peking has little or nothing to offer in return.

Even if nothing concrete comes of the meeting the repercussions of Mr Nixon's visit have long since been apparent. Japan is being courted more than ever by Moscow and is itself planning to build bridges to Peking.

India has called on the Soviet Union to redress the balance, while North Vietnam is afraid a bargain might be struck at its expense.

America's influence in Asia is subject to variations; China's is in the process of consolidation.

Joachim Schwelien

(Die Zeit, 18 February 1972)

IN THIS ISSUE

Edward Heath beset with troubles on all sides

In the Commons division on British accession to the Common Market Mr Heath escaped by the skin of his teeth and a majority of eight. Fifteen Conservative MPs voted against the government but this does not necessarily mean that they are dyed-in-the-wool anti-Marketeers. A contributory factor could well have been a certain dissatisfaction with the Prime Minister's political strategy in respect of Northern Ireland and the miners' strike, both of which are bones of contention on the government benches too.

The outcome of the miners' strike seems to have been an even greater setback for Mr Heath, though. The recommendations of the Wilberforce Commission, which the government had rather overhastily agreed to accept as binding even prior to their publication go far beyond what the Prime Minister was prepared to concede the miners.

Mr Heath will have difficulty in making out average wage increases of twenty per cent to be an exceptional case.

(Münchner Merkur, 19 February 1972)

Peking welcomes consolidation of EEC

The Chinese leaders have reiterated their approval of a consolidation of the Western European Community in no uncertain terms. In a Radio Peking commentary on the recent talks between President Pompidou of France and Chancellor Brandt of this country the outcome of the Paris consultations was welcomed as a step in the direction of an economic and monetary union of Western European countries.

In contrast to a number of recent Peking commentaries on the European Community the radio commentator not only emphasised the efforts of Western European countries to limit US influence on the Continent; he also made mention of Western European as a bulwark against the other superpower.

The Paris talks, the commentary notes, were characterised by a feeling that the "tendency of the Western European countries to join forces in resisting the predominance of the great powers is growing daily."

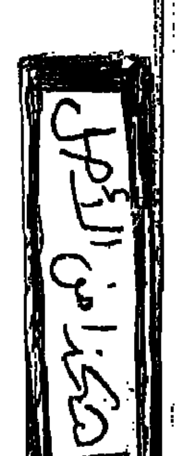
The commentary continues with a note of regret that the "gratifying outcome" of the talks between Pompidou and Brandt could have been reached a year beforehand.

The decision to proceed step by step in the direction of an economic and monetary union had been taken in spring 1971 but the dollar crisis had forestalled its immediate implementation.

The situation is now different, the commentator continued. "Despite the various contradictions and discrepancies between the two countries and in Western Europe as a whole the tendency to join forces in resisting the hegemony of the great powers has developed."

Radio Peking welcomes the agreement between M. Pompidou and Herr Brandt on a date, venue and agenda for a summit conference of the Ten.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 February 1972)



■ FOREIGN AFFAIRS

British miners' strike poses the question: Who won?

How can Labour be expected to unseat the Heath government when even the weather is on the Tories' side? There could be no mistaking the sigh of despair in the voice of Shadow Minister Shirley Williams as she told the Commons that but for the current spell of mild weather Britain's fuel and power crisis, which she attributed to gross incompetence on the part of the Heath Cabinet, would have been far more serious.

Although battling on three fronts, the power crisis, Northern Ireland and the Common Market, the Conservatives have so far come nowhere near the brink of defeat.

Not even the controversial Rhodesian issue, involving, as it does, the hiving off of Britain's responsibility for the former colony, has succeeded in unsettling Mr Heath and his Cabinet.

Yet in every case Mr Heath is bound for head-on collision, deliberately and with a will. The only temporary exception was the Common Market, on which for a time he had Labour Europeans on his side.

On 28 October 1971 the Prime Minister secured a majority of 112 in the vote on whether or not to join the Common Market. In the meantime Labour's pro-Marketeers have returned to the fold and in the latest division the Party rebels were to be found on the Tory benches.

The reason why a collision is in the offing is that the Prime Minister is not a man to yield to counsels of opportunity. Once his mind is made up and he sticks to his guns come what may – as in the case of the miners' strike.

Mr Heath carries on regardless, equalled only by the TUC in his disregard of the losses that may be sustained. In the final analysis the miners's strike amounts to little short of economic suicide. Even if they gain a higher wage increase than was originally intended the miners will be hoist by their own petard.

Two inevitable consequences of the miners' strike will be a further decline in the part of played by coal as an industrial fuel and debts that will take years to repay.

So far Mr Heath's policy of sticking to his guns on incomes has proved quite successful. He has, when all is said and done, succeeded in cutting down last year's more than inflationary wage-rise rates by roughly half to a current level of eight per cent.

No matter how sympathetic one is towards the miners' cause (and there can be no denying that they do a hard job of work) it must not be forgotten that the strike has to say the least considerably lessened the government's success in the fight against inflation.

Quite apart from the setback sustained in increasing the general level of prosperity and the weakening of Britain's competitive position it has come on the eve of accession to the Common Market.

From Britain's point of view membership of the European Community is growing daily more essential. It represents the best prospect of putting Britain's economic house in order – with the aid of future fellow-members of the EEC.

This applies in equal measure to Northern Ireland. Once Britain and the Republic of Ireland are both in the Common Market differences of opinion on Ulster will be more easy to resolve – providing, of course, that Whitehall makes the appropriate moves.

This will soon be the case, though, with the emergence of a fresh combination directed against Stormont, a greater say in government for the Roman Catholic minority, alleviation of the internment policy and a powerful shot in the arm for the Ulster economy.

Now and again Mr Heath is at the receiving end in his collision tactics. The miners' strike is a case in point. But provided he succeeds in gaining acceptance of the miners' pay rise as a special case rather than as a signal for other unions to put in claims of their own he will have won the day after all.

The economic and possibly political cost of his victory are not to be sneezed at, though. Were a general election to be held at the moment Mr Heath and the Tories would lose hands down.

Hans-Heinz Schlenker

(Kieler Nachrichten, 16 February 1972)

Chancellor Brandt accepts invitation to visit Teheran

Chancellor Brandt has taken on no mean task in deciding to visit Teheran early in March with the aim of improving relations between this country and Iran.

In the five years that have elapsed since the Shah's visit to this country and the unfortunate incidents that accompanied in the traditionally good economic relations between the two have rapidly deteriorated.

Since last year the GDR leaders have set out to make political and economic capital out of the trend and, untroubled by scruples about the other side, have made considerable progress.

The Chancellor will have to avoid creating the impression of being ready to make amends. Gestures of this kind could prove too costly.

He must aim at re-establishing an objective relationship between the two countries that is to the benefit of both.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 February 1972)

Italy's political crisis drags on

No European country is so badly in need of a government capable of action as Italy. The political crisis in Rome has long been a bane on Italian society and the country's economy. Yet it continues to simmer with no end in sight.

At least there are now fresh elections on the horizon, the Christian Democrats having given their latest Cabinet-maker, Giulio Andreotti, a free hand to all sides. In the circumstances this amounts to no more than a Christian Democratic minority government to function as a caretaker administration in preparation for fresh elections.

This being what a free hand amounts to, there has been no clarification whatsoever. Tormented by a multiplicity of political parties further complicated by the break-up of the Christian Democrats into rival factions Italy is staggering towards elections no one can really expect to provide one side or the other with a clear mandate.

Experience has shown that in such a situation elections based on proportional representation are more than unlikely to result in a clear majority for one party. It is nothing new to proclaim that democracy hangs in the balance in Italy but the familiarity of laments of this kind in no way alters the fact that the danger is growing increasingly grave.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 12 February 1972)

Suspicions of Athens-Ankara Cyprus deal

Greece's demand that President Ma rios of Cyprus form a Natio government including supporters of G eral Grivas, who has yet again g underground, and surrender the a secretly imported from the Eastern B to the United Nations represents su grave encroachment on the deli balance of power that the other ne bouring country with an interest in island, Turkey, can hardly fail also to involved.

Surprisingly enough Turkey has not responded at all to the Greek dema apart, that is, from the large-scale n exercises in the Aegean and Eas Mediterranean. These, however, were arranged as a consequence of the Ath note; details of the naval manoeuvres announced simultaneously with Greek demands on Cyprus's Archbis

It is not all that long ago that the Tu all but invaded the island. In the pre circumstances one can but imagine th were informed of Greece's intenti beforehand and at least gave their proval.

On closer consideration the idea of two countries having made some kin a deal is not so absurd as it might at appear. Years of conflict between Gr and Turkish Cypriots having led to even the hint of a solution, Athens Ankara were bound to grow increasi enamoured of an alternative that always been on the cards.

It remains for the time being to be whether the two governments have ag on one or other of these alternatives there can be no doubt that Gree determined to bring Archbishop Mak as the champion of an indepe Cyprus closer to heel.

In the circumstances it is doub whether General Grivas has returned fr his Athens exile to take up arms again union with Greece entirely without connivance of the Greek government.

At all events Athens considers Presi Makarios's imports of arms fr Czechoslovakia for his palace guard police to be an attempt by the Ar bishop to assert military independe now that the Greek Cypriot nati guard is commanded by regular offi of the Greek army.

The source of supply of these being bound to occasion suspicion A bishop Makarios has every reason to the possibility that he might appl Moscow for assistance.

If necessary, he may well feel, Soviet Union will champion the caus an independent Cyprus of its own acc as it has done in the past. An indepen Cyprus would, of course, also be dependent of Nato.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 15 February 1

The German Tribune

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Japan's courtship of China may well be meant less seriously by the political establishment than progressives would like to feel. This, at any rate, is the impression conveyed by the spectacular disciplinary proceedings instituted by the ruling Liberal Democrats against Party left-winger and old China hand Aichiro Fujiyama.

Japanese Premier Sato calls China's bluff

The haste with which Washington is endeavouring to come to terms with Peking meets with scepticism in Tokyo. Japan prefers to progress at a more leisurely pace in improving relations with its mainland neighbour.

Ex-Foreign Minister Fujiyama has been stripped of Party office for signing a memorandum calling for annulment of the peace treaty between Tokyo and Taipei in the wake of the latest annual round of Sino-Japanese trade talks.

It followed from his signature that Japan was prepared to recognise Peking's sole right to represent the Chinese people at Nationalist China's expense and the news made headlines all over the world.

Trade memoranda between Tokyo and Peking have come almost as a matter of course to read like a catalogue of Japanese sins and concessions. Tokyo can hardly take them at face value.

There is more to the Liberal Democrats and Premier Sato making a *cause célèbre* out of their negotiator's latest move than this, however.

For one it can be inferred that Japan is taking its time in dealing with Peking and is less willing than it has been to tolerate the tenor sounded by the Chinese.

Mr Sato has at least shown that he is not prepared to modify his obligations towards Chiang Kai-shek for reasons of opportunism and does not consider premature American successes in Peking, which could put Japan at a disadvantage, to be realistic.

The Party proceedings against Mr Fujiyama also indicate the existence of fundamental differences of opinion within the Liberal Democratic Party, differences that have so far prevented Premier Sato from pursuing an unambiguous policy towards Peking.

Speculation along these lines was lent further encouragement by Mr Sato's statement in Sapporo that he was ready at the first opportunity to travel to Moscow to negotiate the future of the four Kurile islands still occupied by the Soviet Union.

Were he to go to Moscow Peking could hardly fail to feel affronted but might, of course, be induced to make a gesture of good will in return.

Last but not least Mr Sato's stratagem has succeeded in upsetting the pundits' forecasts as to the date of his impending retirement.

It is an open secret that he plans to retire and in Sapporo he himself mentioned the end of the current session of the Japanese Parliament as a likely date. That would be 26 May, eleven days after the return of Okinawa to Japan.

Were he to visit the Kremlin the deadline would, of course, have to be extended and could hardly fail to cast an interesting light on the Chinese problem.

(Münchner Merkur, 15 February 1972)

■ POLITICS

Barzel lacks a powerful team behind him

The CDU/CSU parliamentary party is the strongest opposition the Bundestag has had. At least from the point of view of numbers it is strong. The leading men in the "union parties" would like the same adjective to apply to their political actions. But there are doubts about this.

However little the government has managed to achieve the high aims it set itself, the Opposition's failure to give a convincing explanation of how it would have managed affairs better is just as great.

Neither the vehemence of the Opposition's attacks nor the number of questions it has raised in the Bundestag have been able to give the impression that the CDU/CSU has the more convincing alternatives.

The CDU/CSU Opposition has tried to stay in a position to breathe down the necks of the coalition government. At least the Opposition has been trying to manoeuvre into such a position since it got over the shock of losing the autumn 1969 general election.

It has tried to present to the general public not only the more convincing political programme but also the better team. We are still waiting for it to come up with both.

It seems as though the Opposition is the captive of its own strength. There is no other explanation of how it has failed to come up yet with the team that is to unseat the SPD/FDP in the 1973 general elections and to take over the responsibility of running the country again.

At any rate it is certainly not the fault of Opposition leader Rainer Barzel for thinking that he alone is capable of leading his party to election victory.

There is no longer any opposition within the party to Barzel as the candidate for the Chancellorship, but he more than anyone must be aware that he requires an attractive team to back him up.

For this reason he announced at the party political conference in Saarbrücken that he planned immediately to set up a Shadow Cabinet along British lines.

The acting CDU Chairman seems to have many more facets than his predecessor, Kurt Georg Kiesinger, who surrounded himfeelf with all kinds of experts and was only required to express opinions himself when it came to major political matters.

But it is expected that Barzel, at least until he has managed to build up a reliable team of politicians with ministerial competence, will be taking a definite line himself on all the complexes of domestic and foreign policies, although of course he is not an expert on the whole political spectrum.

But where, oh where, is the member of the "union parties" who could act as the chosen and reliable shadow foreign minister alongside shadow Chancellor Barzel and support him in German and East Bloc policy decisions?

How about Gerhard Schröder? He still commands a great deal of respect in the eyes of the public, but is not so popular in the parliamentary party any longer.

Or Richard von Weizsäcker who is the man for a carefully considered rather than a speedy decision? Alternatively the campaigning but often excessively hasty Werner Marx?

When these politicians speak do any of them ever express anything other than their own personal opinions? It is not only the public that can lay claim to a straight answer, but the party itself finds it important. The last general election in the autumn of 1969 should have proved to the CDU/CSU that it is not "all up to the Chancellor", their campaign slogan of the time!

Who is the "shadow" Genscher? Hans-Dietrich Genscher's predecessor in office, Ernst Benda, has moved on to the Contitutional Court in Karlsruhe. Who is the authority in economic affairs in the Opposition parties? Is it Franz Josef Strauss? Or Gerhard Stoltenberg? The one only expresses himself inside the Bundestag while the other only has a voice outside the parliament since he is no longer a member of it.

It is not always possible to reduce what the two of them are saying to a common denominator.

It would be possible to continue the list of question marks all through the ministries apart from the obvious choices such as Hans Katzer for social welfare and Hermann Höcherl who would be the natural choice for agriculture.

There are several possible reasons why Rainer Barzel has not yet been able to present his team selections to a waiting public. It is quite possible and understandable that Barzel may want to fill his ministries with promising newcomers, but at the same time cannot overlook the claims of the ministers who stepped down in 1969.

It is also feasible that he cannot find enough talent within the parliamentary party and is scouting around outside the Bundestag for new blood.

Nor can we rule out the possibility that some promising candidates are failing Barzel by taking a defeatist attitude to the next general election and considering it lost already. Indeed there are sceptics in the ranks who do not fancy Barzel's chances against Willy Brandt and who are making their plans rather with 1977 in mind than next year. They reckon that if Barzel loses the 1973 election he will not

Hannoversche Allgemeine

be around as shadow Chancellor four years later. Perhaps Stoltenberg will have taken his place by then.

The main fact is that the relationship between the Christian Democrats and Christian Socialists in general and between Barzel and Strauss in particular is far from cordial.

Evidence of this is not hard to find, for instance the recent incident when Strauss produced his own plan for a treaty with Moscow without Barzel's knowledge and behind his back. This snub of Barzel and large sections of the CDU revealed their differences of opinion on the strategy for bringing down the government coalition, which have so far been painstakingly swept under the carpet.

From the outset Strauss wanted to steer a collision course, he wanted to achieve polarisation at practically any price. But the leader of the CDU and a majority of the party pursued a much more careful policy. They are banking on constructive opposition, that is to say cooperation with the government wherever this seems to be appropriate. They are trusting that when it comes to the vote the electorate will honour the better arguments.

There is some doubt about whether Barzel is the most promising challenger to Brandt's crown or whether the Opposition could find itself a better man. But this is a question that the "union" parties must leave unanswered now, for they chose Barzel with an overwhelming majority. From that moment on anyone who attempted to prevent him from picking his team for the election fray was acting to the detriment of the party.

The electorate does not only expect the Opposition to come up with good policies, but also with a good alternative group of men to the government.

Ludwig Harms

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 17 Februarv 1972)

FDP seeks voter support to continue Brandt/Scheel coalition

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The Free Democrats have given the electorate a clear message: "If you want a continuation of the SPD/FDP coalition under Willy Brandt and Walter Scheel it is essential to back the Free Democrats." This is an appeal from Scheel's party to the electorate to help them over the five-per-cent barrier on which the FDP could stumble bringing down not only itself but also the coalition.

But Willi Weyer is of the opinion that as many as ten per cent of the voters may give their vote to the Free Democrats at next year's general election. This leads to the supposition that for the SPD/FDP coalition to be continued it may be necessary to strenthen the FDP to well over the five-per-cent rock-bottom level, that is to say that the next coalition should have more FDP members. Does Willi Weyer consider that the strength of the Free Democrats in the present coalition is too slight? Walter Scheel certainly would not agree with this.

No matter whether the FDP has five, six or seven and more per cent of the votes cast at the next election, when it comes to the election of the new Chancellor a renewal of Willy Brandt's term of office is a racing certainty. Rainer Barzel as candidate for the Chancellorship has as little hope in 1973 as Kurt Georg Kiesinger had in 1969.

The same fate would befall Gerhard Schröder and Gerhard Stoltenberg. Schröder's experience at the election of the Bundestag president underlines this, even though his relationship with the FDP is good.

The FDP waves a reddish flag now and will do so in the choice of a Chancellor even though the red of the SPD has become redder since 1969.

The more socialist the SPD becomes the more attractive the FDP's slogan that it is the "watchdog" over socialism in the coalition appears.

They are attempting to snap up the voters who stand to the left of centre but do not want to move too far away from the centre.

Liberals of the old school will not be among this section of the electorate. But among the new liberals on whom the FDP is placing its hopes will be those Young Democrats who see socialism as the fulfilment of liberalism and who are not too keen on the "watchdog" idea.

Thoughtless talk ignored

The party leadership tries to gloss over the thoughtless talk of these young people, but these youngsters will be there at the polling booths helping to decide who will be in the next FDP parliamentary party, having already decided who will be the Free Democrat's candidates for a seat in the Bundestag. Young Democrats and Young Socialists stand shoulder to shoulder.

The next FDP parliamentary party could therefore be further to the left than the present one and could put up greater resistance to the idea that the FDP is there to stop the Social Democrats becoming too socialist, a watchdog over the radical elements in the SPD.

FDP General Secretary Hermann Flach has called the development of his party since the last general election put it in a coalition with the SPD "the most difficult process of development the party has been through". That process appears to be still under way and not yet completed.

Flach's consolatory assurance that at the last FDP party-political conference in Freiburg the party had shown greater solidarity ignores the fact that on a matter as important as worker participation the majority was just one and it is possible that at the next conference the minority will be able to gain a majority.

And so the battle over this point carries on and the situation is aggravated by the fact that the General Secretary, who is supposed to be the motive force behind the election campaign was with the minority that voted against Scheel and Genscher in Freiburg.

Genscher, the Minister of the Interior, and thus the minister responsible for Basic Law, has heard voices in his party contradicting his ideas of how the constitution of the Federal Republic can be protected from radical elements.

Leaders unruffled

Party Chairman Walter Scheel has to admit that the common denominator for his party's new course has not yet made its presence felt, even though the FDP leader still appears unruffled.

The "union" parties claim they represent the centre, the SPD says it is the party of the left, but the FDP speaks neither of centre nor of left. Whereas the old-style FDP was further right than the CDU on many issues the FDP of the seventies is further left than the SPD on education and law reform.

So far the third party in the land has only known political power in coalition with the CDU/CSU. In those days it claimed to keep an open mind on the ideas of both wings. Today the FDP only speaks in terms of coalition with the SPD.

This is the change that Flach called "a path strewn with thorns". Now, along this path, roses are supposed to be growing. The number of votes is expected to increase as a result of the policy change.

The FDP is hoping that it will catch in 1973 the votes that went to the SPD in 1969 because the Social Democrats had Karl Schiller. Now that Schiller's popularity has waned the SPD will not be too unhappy if the votes that are lost go to the FDP and it is possible as a result to continue the coalition.

But such a change of vote from SPD to FDP will only prevent a further weakening of the coalition and will not do anything to strengthen in. It will prove displeasing to many Social Democrats and probably to many radical liberals as well who would have gladly voted SPD with regard to the growing influence of the Young Socialists in the party.

"The skills of leadership of both parties will be needed," said the FDP General Secretary with something of a sigh of resignation. The main thing the government coalition needs is to make inroads into the CDU/CSU store of votes.

Obviously the FDP will have to be the warhead of this weapon levelled against the present Opposition. While the SPD is talking more and more all the time of the workers the FDP will be doing its bit for the coalition trying to attract those people who are not "the workers" but who are also not bourgeois of the old stamp, that is to say the propertied middle classes.

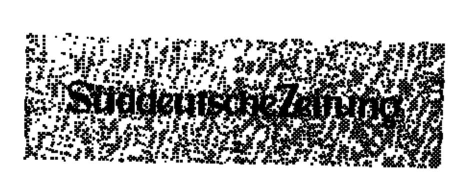
It is in this group that the FDP seeks its voters. It has already got a foothold in this sector. But so far this footing has not proved so firm a basis as the FDP's old niche.

Alfred Rapp

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 February 1972)

■ GDR

East Germany plans to introduce 3-month law for abortions



Fresh fuel was added to the passionate discussion of abortion law reform recently when the Vatican's newspaper *Osservatore Romano* sharply criticised what it described as the inhumane decisions taken by the government in Bonn.

The newspaper was particularly indignant about the fact that Bonn planned to permit the voluntary sterilisation of males over 25. It accused the government of seizing upon the ideology of the Third Reich and stated that it was unbelievable for the problem of sterilisation to be discussed in Germany of all places.

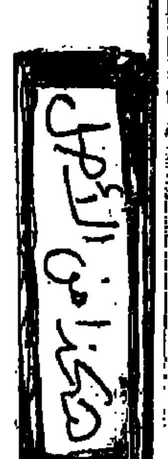
The criticism affects both parts of Germany. In the German Democratic Republic too the discussion on abortion law reform is in full swing. Sterilisation is not being considered but conditions for terminating a pregnancy are to be considerably liberalised.

The GDR's Ministerial Council recently submitted a Bill to this effect to the People's Chamber. In future all children born in East Germany will be wanted. The law reads: "The mother herself can decide whether she would like to terminate the pregnancy during the first three months. After three months have elapsed an abortion is only permitted when the mother's life is in danger or when there are other important circumstances." As far as work and insurance is concerned, abortions will be equated with cases of sickness and will therefore be free.

Women in the GDR have already been able to have an abortion. Previously they have had to appear before a panel of doctors, welfare workers and representatives of social organisations.

The panel exercised its powers liberally with women under sixteen or over forty. It was only for women between these ages that extremely strict conditions were set.

This procedure was based on the new penal code introduced in 1968 at the same time as the controversial abortion law was scrapped. Abortions were still punished under paragraphs 153 to 155 of the new penal code but an abortion attempt by the mother herself was no longer prosecuted.



Seven years ago the abortion laws were amended for the first time at the instigation of the East German Health Ministry. A mother could then apply for an abortion if her life was endangered or if a serious impairment of her physical and mental health was expected.

If a mother had already had four children born on average at fifteen-month intervals and became pregnant again not later than six months after the last birth her application for an abortion was never turned down.

But in the course of time this procedure met with the increasing opposition of the women affected. They objected to the complications involved in gaining permission for an abortion and sought other ways out. The number of illegal abortions rose.

After long discussions the Socialist Unity Party (SED) agreed upon the three-month solution. The SED's newspapers stated that this would give women greater security.

There was opposition from the Churches in East Germany too. Both Protestant and Catholic bishops spoke out against legalised abortions. In a joint statement read from the pulpits of all Catholic churches the Catholic bishops stated that this would mean a harmful development for the whole nation.

Protestant bishops claimed that the legalised murder of unwanted life would automatically lead to a general stupefaction of the conscience as regards the value of life. "A State giving its express protection to marriage, the family and motherhood cannot want this," they stated.

Politicians in East Germany did not try to hide the fact that abortion had its dangers for the mother and society as a whole despite the great medical advances made.

That is why a number of special restrictions have been introduced. A woman will not be allowed to have two abortions in one year. Mothers must be admitted to hospitals for the operation and have out-patients' treatment after being discharged.

There are also proposals for a law that abortions can only be carried out at a hospital in the mother's immediate vicinity. This is meant to keep some control over the situation and prevent infringements.

Other methods of family planning are being sought. Doctors and family advisory centres are being asked to help. All young girls from the age of sixteen are to be prescribed contraceptive pills if they want them.

A lot of this may seem paradoxical in view of the fact that the SED likes to represent the German Democrat Republic as a child-loving State and praises its laws for the protection of mothers and children as the most progressive in the world.

It is also paradoxical in view of the fact that the population of East Germany has been stagnating for years. But that is not the background to the three-month solution that is also being proposed in the Federal Republic. It is more a question of freeing innumerable women from a mental burden impairing their health and performance.

Willi Kinnigkeit

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 February 1972)

Negotiations with East Berlin mark time

Talks between the Federal Republic and the German Democratic Republic have been broken off until March, but this is no pause for thought.

The last two two-day meetings between West German State Secretary Egon Bahr and East German State Secretary Michael Kohl did not result in much progress being made on the proposed transport agreement.

It was obvious from the very beginning that the West German government had no wish to put its signature to the proposals put forward by State Secretary Kohl unless some alterations were made.

The fact must not be denied that the East Berlin negotiator Kohl urgently

Kieler Nachrichten

needs a break in the talks in order to go on a convalescent holiday.

But in political practice it means that when Bahr and Kohl meet again in March they will be starting to discuss the transport agreement for the third time.

The agreement would have been signed long ago if the Socialist Unity Party had been interested in its speedy conclusion.

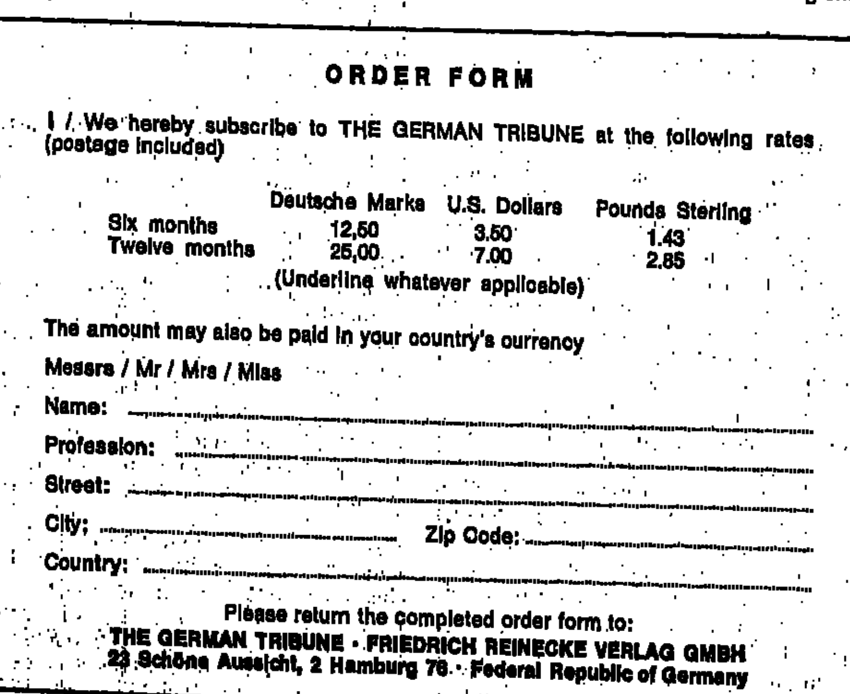
Perhaps the German Democratic Republic is counting on international developments. The more success it has in being recognised by Western and non-aligned nations, the less necessity there is for East Berlin to accept the concessions towards normalisation demanded by the Federal Republic. Whether this reckoning is false or not will certainly not depend exclusively on the skilfulness of Bonn's policy.

The SED can be taken at its word – the politburo and Ministerial Council in East Berlin stated while Bahr and Kohl were still negotiating in Bonn that they were prepared to make an active and constructive contribution to peaceful coexistence, to increasing detente and developing cooperation between all European States.

That sounds very laudable and, on paper, is exactly what the West German government wants. But it remains no more than a scrap of paper as long as East Germans are not allowed the same modest freedom of movement where the other German State is concerned as is a matter-of-course in all civilised nations. Bonn must not tire of drawing attention to this.

H.O. Lippens

(Kieler Nachrichten, 7 February 1972)



The GDR has a 'classism' proble[m]

For a number of months now ideological commission of the So[cial]ist Unity Party (SED) politburo has splitting hairs over the question of in the German Democratic Rep should be included in the "working c alongside manual workers and labourers.

The decision came quickly and with effort. Anyone who was a worker be rising up the party and State ladder before getting on in industry or sc remains a member of the working c That is what has always been done.

Erich Honecker is therefore Honecker, tiler, and Willi Stoph, layer. Classifying the children and children of people who rose out of working classes seems to be more diff however.

These offspring are hybrids. The generation, that is the children, will be allowed to count themselves to working class if they spent a short pe of time before their studeies working manual worker or farm labourer.

The second generation, the grandchildren, are faced by a completely diffe ruling. They must not study but retu the tractor or factory lathe if they want to include themselves with working class.

It sounds nonsensical but it is than mere theoretical juggling on wings of the political stage. It i important domestic issue and of importance for hundreds of thousan East Germans and their opportuniti first-class or second-class citizens.

For many years there was no men of class issues in the German Democ Republic. Walter Ulbricht had de the "establishment of a Socialist c munity as his programme."

All sections of the population we cooperate in this community and the the SED as the party of the working was to be recognised as compl dominant this role was to be exer mildly like a big brother.

Erich Honecker, the new SED rejected the theory of the Soci community at the eighth SED p congress in June 1971 and announ return to the ideology of the struggle. The SED's claim to abs power was once again crassly empha

Honecker believes that the West man population can be better discip in this way, that life in the GDR ca walled off even more from the West that above all the influence of tech crats and the intelligentsia can be dec ed in favour of the party potentates.

This hard line was once again stre at the SED leader's ideological confer last October and its basic features lined. However, it was stated offic that extremely opposed views were pressed.

In other words, there was a row. M of the SED men who had risen in the party wanted naturally enough to e that their children and grandchil could study, have good jobs and belong to the "right class".

The first effects of East Ger "Classism" can already be seen. The S plans to reduce the number of unive students for economic reasons. There already reports of discrimination ag children whose parents do not belo the right class. Instead of being allo to study they are being made to join army.

Recently *Junge Welt*, the newsp published by Freie Deutsche Jugend, party's youth organisation, warned yo Marxists against marrying a Chris partner as basic ideological differe represented too great a danger in li together.

Renate Marbach

(Kieler Nachrichten, 11 February 1972)

■ HOME AFFAIRS

Narcotics dealers take to the country – the cities are too hot

During the past two years the customs have managed to chalk up notable successes in the fight against rapidly increasing narcotics smuggling, the Press and Information Office of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany announces.

The figures available show that the customs are able to intercept more and more imported narcotics. One noticeable feature is the rise in the number of *minors* among the smugglers, dealers and purchasers.

Hashish and marijuana are most commonly intercepted, followed by LSD. The drugs normally enter the Federal Republic from the south. Frankfurt, Munich and Hamburg are the main centres of the international drug trade in West Germany.

Smuggled drugs

The Press and Information Office adds that the drugs and narcotics found in the Federal Republic have all been smuggled in. The only exceptions are the narcotics obtained in this country after break-ins at chemists, the falsification of prescriptions or similar offences.

As climatic reasons practically rule out the growing of plants from which drugs can be obtained, the main offences in the drugs traffic (import, export, transit, selling and purchasing) are those against the drug laws and customs regulations such as dealing in contraband and attempting to evade taxation.

For the customs there can be no intensive fight against crimes involving narcotics without steps being taken to



counter the smuggling of drugs. The police and the customs work in close cooperation on this point.

Customs investigations show that a considerable number of aliens are involved in illegal drug-trafficking, especially in the smuggling of drugs and their large-scale distribution.

Most of the dealers, purchasers and consumers are Germans – and predominantly young Germans.

Cannabis products such as hashish and marijuana are the drugs most frequently found among confiscated stocks. The hallucinatory drug LSD is in second place, followed by opium, morphine and heroin. But only relatively small quantities of these drugs are found.

The Press and Information Office report shows that the most-used international trade route for narcotics normally runs from East to West. The main countries producing the drugs smuggled into the Federal Republic are Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey. The Turkish authorities have now realised however that the State can take measures to limit the cultivation of poppies.

Imports from North Africa are of little importance. LSD comes mainly from the United States and Britain while opium and morphine is usually supplied from Turkey.

Although most of the drugs traffic comes into the country via the Federal Republic's southern frontiers and though most of the drugs confiscated are found there, the increase of the smuggling of drugs within the European Economic Community must be looked upon with concern.

Many smugglers use the EEC borders as they think that there is not so much danger involved. But the customs have recognised these new tactics and are now watching road and rail routes, aircraft, shipping and the post. Smuggling by air has increased considerably.

The main centres of the drug trade are in Frankfurt, Munich and Hamburg according to recent investigations and the authorities have taken the necessary counter-measures. Dealers have now tended to withdraw to rural areas in recent months.

The Federal Republic is not always the end of a smuggling route but often only an intermediate stage on the route to the West, especially to Britain, the United States and the Scandinavian countries.

Smugglers have come up with a number of tricks to fool investigators. They often make detours if entry direct from their starting-point seems too dangerous. They fly from the Middle East to Paris or Brussels and then cross the West German frontier by train or taxi. Another route, the Press and Information Office reports, is to fly to Rome and then travel on to the Federal Republic by other means of transport.

Experience shows that the smugglers are pushers who have been bought by their foreign employers and have to deliver their goods in a precisely described way. Women with small children are also used as they will usually escape the stricter controls. With the high profit margins in the drugs trade the special costs for detours are easy to bear.

As alarming as the number and quantities of drugs found by the customs must be for a society, the customs authorities are happy to report that the Federal Republic has been largely spared hard drugs, opium, morphine and heroin, unlike the United States and a number of other European countries.

But there are indications that these drugs are found in transit traffic through the Federal Republic and are being sold to drug consumers here in increasing quantities.

Georg Gusmann

(Handelsblatt, 10 February 1972)

Weyer calls for a ban on Italian Communist Party in this country

North Rhine-Westphalia's Minister of the Interior, Willi Weyer, will do all he can to prevent the Italian Communist Party from setting up local branches in the Federal Republic.

The Italian Communist Party has already set up groups in Stuttgart and Cologne. No independent State could tolerate foreign parties operating on its territory, Weyer stated.

The Italian Communist Party has stated in Rome that the party groups in the Federal Republic only planned to look after the social interests of Italians working there.

Weyer countered with the argument that this work could be done by organisations that were not identical with either a communist or fascist party.

From the beginning of this year the Italian Communist Party is reported to have split the Federal Republic into two sections – North and South – in order to pay more attention to Italian workers in this country.

Local branches were recently opened in Cologne and Stuttgart. The head of the Italian Communists in the Federal Republic is said to be a 33-year-old worker who was deported from Switzerland many years ago for communist activities.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 8 February 1972)

Interior Ministry plans to prepare a white paper on civil defence

Second World War air raid shelters under the Schlossberg in Freiburg-im-Breisgau have now been converted at the government's instigation into homes accommodating six thousand people.

It is estimated that the bunker will withstand nuclear detonations of considerable strength. It has its own water and electricity supply and has enough storage rooms, kitchens and sanitary installations that the six thousand inhabitants could live and survive there for several days or even several weeks if necessary. They would be completely independent of a world that could by then be destroyed, radioactive or poisoned.

The city of Freiburg, which has itself built a shelter for fifty people under the new fire-brigade headquarters, is stubbornly refusing to take over the Schlossberg bunker because of the annual running costs of between 25,000 and 50,000 Marks that this would entail.

There have long been government subsidies for building private shelters in new homes. The extra expenditure involved in building a shelter for 25 of more persons as compared with building a normal cellar is completely covered. The offer is also attractive to the owners of small houses, especially as costs over and above the subsidy can be taken off income tax.

But few builders have applied for State subsidies. Funds for this scheme have not been used up entirely.

Underground railways, below-surface garages, pedestrian subways and road tunnels are currently being built in many West German cities. The number of cities that have thought of using these as multi-purpose installations that could also be employed as shelters can be counted on the fingers of two hands despite the fact that the government would pay the lion's share of the extra expenditure in this case too.

Officials at the Federal Civil Defence Bureau in Bad Godesberg and the Ministry of the Interior in Bonn are glad when a chain store or a rich businessman comes along from time to time to ask about the conditions governing a subsidy for a multi-purpose below-surface garage.

They sadly glance at Sweden or Switzerland where shelters in houses and factories are not only legally prescribed but are also looked upon as a matter of course.

Measures to protect the population against the dangers of war are unpopular in the Federal Republic. Memories of nights during the Second World War when the bombs fell play a role here alongside the widely held, though erroneous belief that there is no protection against atomic weapons.

Politicians have only been too willing to bow to the public's desire to forget the past. That is not surprising after the sad experiences they had during the campaigns that failed miserably in the fifties and early sixties.

No Minister of the Interior, the man responsible for civil defence, wants his image to be harmed by a nickname like "Bunker Höcherl", "Shelter Benda" or "Siren Genscher". The impractical organisation of the Civil Defence has also ruled out sensible work for a long time.

The shortcomings of the organisation were theoretically ironed out by the civil defence laws passed in 1968. But everything remains theoretical as the law is still not in full, effective because of inadequate administrative clauses agreed by the government and Federal states.

The law is based on the fact that peace-time disasters, whether caused by natural forces as with flooding or earthquakes or by technical shortcomings as with train crashes, air disasters, chemical explosions or accidents at reactors, differ only in degree from the results of conventional or atomic warfare.

It is all a question of protecting and rescuing people, tending to the sick and injured and ensuring the continuation of basic services for survivors, Wolfram Dorn, the Parliamentary State Secretary in the Ministry of the Interior, told a symposium arranged by the Federal Civil Defence Bureau.

The organisations responsible for civil defence in times of peace must be given the necessary staff and equipment for them to fulfil their duties in times of war as well.

There are no longer any organisations that would only be used in the event of war, apart from the warning alarm service. Even this organisation is soon to put its communications and measuring system at the disposal of environmental conservation so that air pollution can be measured and smog warnings given in plenty of time. The equipment must first be converted for this purpose however.

The Ministry of the Interior intends follow the example of the Defence Ministry and publish a white paper on civil defence. The white paper – compiled under the direction of Wolfram Dorn – must first be approved by the Cabinet but even now it is being described in Bonn as a paper of unusually skilful non-commitment.

No statement has been made about finance. If psychology is the foundation of civil defence then finance is its support. Both are on the weak side in the Federal Republic.

The ratio between expenditure on civil and military defence was 1 to 43 in 1971. The figure will sink to 1 to 45 in 1972. Compared with Sweden and Switzerland where the ratio is approximately one to ten, the Federal Republic is underdeveloped. In view of this observers are waiting to see how the white paper will conceal the resigned attitude of the responsible authorities.

Ludger Stein-Ruegenberg

(Deutsche Zeitung, 11 February 1972)

THE ECONOMY

Economic report hints at economic boost

It was only a legally appointed deadline that forced Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Professor Karl Schiller to state recently what he is thinking of doing in the immediate future with regard to industrial and economic policies.

January every year the Bundestag expects to hear the economic policy programme for the coming year. This is known as the annual economic report.

If this were not the case it is sure that Karl Schiller would not have chosen to carry out such a burdensome duty at such a point in time. For no one is yet in any position to say that there are already signs of a slowdown in the price spiral which would be a valid signal for taking steps to give the economy a boost.

But what else could be expected from an economic programme to be announced at the present juncture than a boost to the economy, since we are sliding dangerously close to an economic recession?

In fact the annual economic report confirms what has been going the rounds in rumour form for some time before. This year the State's contingency budget will come into force in the spring and the tax surcharge will be repaid in the summer. Both together involve about ten milliard Marks.

This sounds a more massive figure than it really is. Sums such as this should be measured against the gross national product, that is to say the value of this country's industrial productivity. In 1971 this was more than 750 milliard Marks. So these ten milliard Marks are not even one-and-a-half per cent of the GNP.

But of course it is hoped that by paying out this sum the economy will be given an initial booster. If there is greater government spending, for instance a more ambitious building programme, and the consumer slackens his purse-strings as well, for instance on cars, then the level of employment will rise.

Increased employment means higher income and a boost to demand etcetera. It is only such consequences of the application of this ten milliard Marks when it is punped into the economy that make it into a sizable sum.

But at the moment Professor Schiller has quite different worries. The price spiral is, as I have said, still so serious that a further cooling off of the economy might be considered more appropriate than giving it a boost.

On the other hand we are on the edge of recession. The development is such that a temporary slight cutback in overall productivity cannot be ruled out. This is an extraordinarily unpleasant situation.

The state of prices demands that economists keep their foot on the brake while the situation with regard to productivity and employment requires acceleration. This is the dilemma that permeates this year's economic report.

On the one hand it announces methods of stimulation, on the other hand there is a warning that we are running the risk of continued price increases at an intolerable level.

In fact 1972 will see a problem that could greatly affect further long-term development when it comes to a head by the way in which it is resolved – or not. Following the last boom which brought an almighty increase to rising prices the question was raised whether it would be possible to cut back price rises to the previous level during the phase in which the economy cooled off again.

Experts quickly agreed that for this to come about a far-reaching and long-drawn out cooling off of the economy or even a recession would be necessary. It is of course a moot point whether a decrease in the level of price-rises is worth such a sacrifice. But in the economic stabilisation legislation it is stated that both aims are to be given the same amount of attention.

If it is now decided that the economy should be given a boost this means that a decision has been taken in advance affecting the level of employment and price stability. For then there would be no further opportunity of escaping from the high level of price increases that had been reached for more than a short period.

It may well be that for a certain time it will be possible to bring down the rate of price increases to some extent, but when the next boom comes – as in any boom – there will be another increase in tempo.

Since it will mean starting at a greater rate than in the past it will not be long before the present record level has been reached.

It would then no longer be possible to return to the two to three per cent per annum that was until recently considered self-evident as the average level of price increases in an economic cycle from the upward climb to a boom to the downward slide to decreased economic activity.

And when this has become more or less the custom it means that the old moral considerations which up till recent times put a brake on massive price increases will have been swept away.

It will then become standard practice for all contracts that are concluded to make provision for the price rises to come or to ensure against them with appropriate sliding clauses. As soon as people have come to expect massive price increases it is certain that these will then come.

This is of course all well known to Karl Schiller and he must be applauded for prizing price stability – whatever that might mean – highly. If the case were otherwise then there is no doubt that he would have sounded the starting pistol for a new race towards an economic boom long ago. This would be as self-evident as the rising of the sun if it were not for the wild increase in prices that is affecting West Germany today. But the decision is having to be postponed. It should not be forgotten, however, that the mere announcement of economic measures is as good as the implementation of them since it confirms prognostications that have already been made by industry.

If it is known that there is only a brief difficult period to be negotiated it is possible to be lavish with price increases. So we can understand how the motor trade is able to push up its prices now at a time when the firms are having to cut back their productivity because of declining sales.

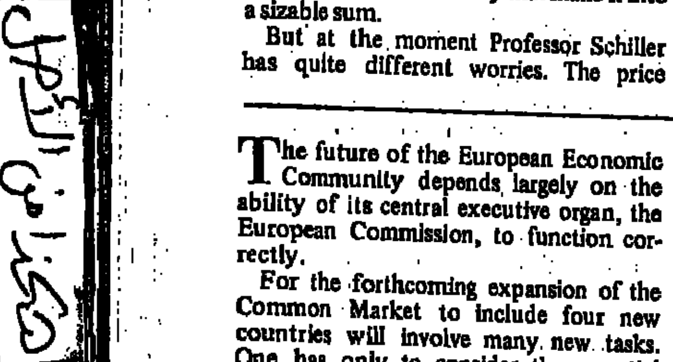
The motto is: raise prices now and suffer a further slump in sales – economic policies will soon be taking care of things.

Clearly the economy is going to come out of the doldrums this year. Prices will not rise so steeply at first, but when the boom comes they will take off from an even higher launching pad than before. This is all the precedent that is needed for years of inflationary price rises.

Hans Jürgens

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 6 February 1972)





Important stage in EEC-America trade conflict

The trade conflict between the Europ[ean] Economic Community and [the] United States appears to have reache[d a] turning point. Negotiations have led [to] the first and perhaps decisive results [.] Americans can look to concessions [in] agricultural as their greatest success.

Europe has opened its doors slig[htly] wider for their oranges and grapefr[uit] and the pressure of competition f[rom] European grain is also to be slackened somewhat.

This at any rate is what has so far [been] published of the talks in Brussels [...] with the mutual readiness to pay [...] attention to the question of liberali[sing] world trade.

It is planned to resume internati[onal] discussions on precisely this point[,] namely the virtual removal of cust[oms] duties and trade barriers – in 1973.

So far, so good. But the decision t[aken] in Brussels must be given the blessing [of] the EEC Council of Ministers and [the] government in Washington especially [as] both sides obviously did not succeed [in] reaching any agreement within the fra[me]work of precedents.

And at this point Paris has stepped [in.] The French government is not satisf[ied] since it fears that the European Co[m]munity has made too many concessi[ons] and has not paid enough attention to [the] required mutual nature of trade p[olicy] concessions.

France has not only its own agricul[tural] policy interests in mind, but also [its] efforts to hamper the activity of the [EEC] Commission even further. Neverth[eless] the French will not torpedo things.

The Americans are just as unlikely [to] be completely satisfied. They were [ob]viously hoping for more than W.D. Eb[erle] who negotiated for them managed [to] achieve. As far as the Nixon admi[nis]tration is concerned the main consi[de]ration is whether the trade-policy [negoti]ations will be sufficient to persu[ade] Congress to put its seal of approval [...] on the dollar devaluation.

This is a vital necessity however b[...] it may be, since without it the w[...] currency compromise that was negoti[ated] so painstakingly at the end of last [year] will be undermined.

Heinz-Peter Go[...]

(Vorwärts, 10 February 1[972])

EEC Commission must be granted effective powers

The future of the European Economic Community depends largely on the ability of its central executive organ, the European Commission, to function correctly.

For the forthcoming expansion of the Common Market to include four new countries will involve many new tasks. One has only to consider the essential amendments to the agricultural market regulations and the preparation of the economic and monetary union, not for six countries now, but for ten. In this setup the coordination of economic policies is certain to be harder than it was in the past.

In addition to this from the beginning of next year all trade agreements with outside countries are to be made by the Community as a whole; it will no longer be permissible for individual EEC countries to conclude such agreements solo.

Jobs such as this can only be carried out by a body that is well prepared for making decisions and is operating smoothly. The French government on the other hand wants to cut back the powers of the European Commission.

The most serious crisis that ever affected the EEC happened on Commission territoty. General de Gaulle lit the fuse on 1 July 1965 because Paris considered that the European Commission was getting too big for its boots and taking too many independent steps. For seven months the French practised the "empty chair" policy, almost crippling the EEC.

The attitude of Georges Pompidou to the Commission is not vastly different from that of de Gaulle. He, too, is opposed to a central body that has a supranational role to play, since he wants to avoid anything that might detract from the national interests of his country.

From the legal point of view the statutes of the EEC treaty state that the Council is the most important body in the Community, a body consisting of ministers from member countries.

As is stated in a footnote to the Rome Treaties "it represents the federal principle and through it the governments of the member States exercise their legislative and executive powers ... The strong position that is granted to the Council of Ministers delegates sovereign powers over the Community to the governments."

In practice, however, it has turned out that the Council of Ministers, being a body that is not constantly convened has developed few new ideas of its own and the decisions it has taken often require a lot if they are to be put into practice.

The European Commission, on the other hand, particularly in the early days when the EEC was being built up, has proved itself to be a matter-of-fact, hard-working body that has shown a good deal of initiative in using its right to put forward suggestions.

It was thanks to the Commission that the breakdown of customs barriers within the Six and the creation of a standardised customs level in dealings with the outside world was introduced with the utmost alacrity and the first successful steps towards economic integration were taken.

Similar hard work and at least as much initiative are required if the enlarged Community is to grow closer together and the joint foreign trade policies are to be carried through without a hitch.

A good testbed of the chances was provided by the negotiations in Bru[ssels] on trade agreements with the Un[ited] States. There were serious doubts [...] France would refused to give its appr[oval] to these agreements, not because it w[as] any way dissatisfied with the content[s] because they had been negotiated by [the] Commission and this might prov[ide a] precedent by which the powers o[f the] Commission could be chopped.

But commonsense won the d[ay.] France gave its approval, even tho[ugh it] still had a few reservations. A joint [...] policy is only possible if it is hamm[ered] out by one of the Community's bo[dies.] And for this purpose the Commissi[on is] ever-ready. If the Commission is t[o be] given the go-by it is essential fo[r the] Council of Ministers to create ano[ther] insitution for this purpose. But even [so] the same old problems of the scope o[f this] body's power would crop up.

As far as practical working condi[tions] in the EEC are concerned a clarifica[tion] of the duties and powers of the Europ[ean] Commission is more important tha[n] other controversies about the final [...] of the EEC and whether the setup [will] become an alliance of States or a mor[e or] less loose confederation of Europ[ean] countries.

Heinz Pentzli[n]

(Die Welt, 11 February 19[72])

AROUND THE FAIRS

A gourmet's delight at Grüne Woche

About 483,500 people (as opposed to 461,300 last year) visited the 1972 *Grüne Woche* (Green Week) exhibition at the Berlin radio tower. It was hard to resist the selection of agricultural and foodstuffs items from 43 different countries.

Eighty-six per cent of the visitors to the fair were there to try out these temptations to their palate and one in two of them tasted some of the products exhibited by the 1,432 firms taking part.

Berlin also became the international rendez-vous for experts on agricultural affairs offering them every opportunity to gather all the information they required as well as to strike up business contacts.

According to AMK, the company responsible for organising the fair, the results of this year's *Grüne Woche* were more favourable than ever before. Berlin proved its value as a safe place for trade fairs, as was shown by the large number of visitors this year.

Four-fifths of the exhibitors who competed with each other in the 23 exhibition halls were of the opinion that they had aroused direct interest with the products they put on show and offered for trial sales.

A survey showed that 96 per cent of the exhibitors were satisfied with the results of their participation in the fair and were ready to return to next year's Berlin Green Week from 26 January to 4 February 1973.

This year was the eleventh time *Grüne Woche* had been officially described as "international". And it justified this description. Agricultural policymakers from this country, the EEC and other countries were there in the full glare of television lamps and press publicity.

The overriding motto of the fair was "Probieren geht über studieren" (Don't study it, eat it!). Scarcely any of the VIPs in Berlin was content just to say his piece. There were products to be tried out.

Berlin's dairy trade alone managed to sell 130,000 samples of whipped cream, French gourmets were represented with fruit in armagnac, 100,000 jars of which were snapped up and oysters, 60,000 of which were swallowed. Bacchus was there in the guise of the Austrian exhibitors who offered 100,000 sample glasses of wine. America got rid of 23,000 corn on the cob and the Danes tempted 128,000 palates with liver pâté. Quality is all important, the Central Marketing Association of the West German Agricultural sector (CMA) believes.

(Telegraf, 8 February 1972)

One of the main halls at Berlin's *Grüne Woche*

(Photo: AMK Berlin)

Nuremberg Toy Fair proves that games are not just child's play

Experts suggested a few years ago that the market for toys need not be restricted to the younger section of the community and that in future adults might prove to be good customers. There were many sceptics who just laughed at this idea.

But as the 1972 toys fair in Nuremberg has shown, many companies manufacturing toys have indeed begun to explore the latent demand for toys among the senior section of society.

Toys have up till now been almost exclusively a preserve of children. Those who went on playing with their toys after they reached going-out-to-work age were considered to be somewhat immature.

Playing for adults was restricted to sport. Playing with model railways, planes and boats had to be excused as a "hobby". It is also characteristic that the only games that were considered socially acceptable were those that involved a kind of continuation of working life, with the profit motive looming large, namely gambling as an extentsion of bargaining for contracts with a lower tender or betting on the stock market. But recent surveys have shown that a change is taking place and adults are looking for leisure-time pursuits other than continuations of their professional life in a slightly disguised form. Otherwise the many puzzle games that are on show at Nuremberg this year would almost certainly be doomed to economic failure. Jigsaw puzzles and similar games, which have been popular with all age groups in Anglo-Saxon countries for something like two hundred years, are tending to become bigger and more difficult with anything up to 3,000 parts. One can scarcely imagine a child having the skill or patience to tackle such a puzzle. This boom in puzzle games is viewed by many as the trend of this year.

One firm has even taken account of the fact that many senior citizens suffer from myopia and has produced playing cards with extra large letters and figures.

And the manufacturers of the most refined and sophisticated building-block system have decided that they must pay more attention to the requirements of the older generation. This firm's construction kits are now so refined that it is even possible to build a working computer with them.

One novelty at this toy fair is a miniature billiards game for kids from 9 to 90. And the same company has produced a home casino set and a series of portable games for travellers.

Another game that is far more likely to amuse adults than children is called UNO. In this game industrialised nations and developing countries battle for economic power, prosperity and influence at the United Nations.

A new material with which it is possible to paint, model and print ready-made pictures is on exhibition in Nuremberg and is aimed as much at the Dads and Granddads as the children.

Adults' careful hands are probably more suited than those of clumsy children to handling the smallest model railway yet produced with a scale of 1:220 and a gauge of just 6.3 millimetres.

This trend towards toys for grownups is probably more than just a fad, like the moon-landing craft and educational toys that have dominated the world of playthings in recent years.

Experts on this branch of the economy believe it is just the start of something big and an indication of a sociological change. As the amount of leisure and pleasure time available increases it seems that the fascination of television is decreasing.

Very few people seem prepared to spend this time of extra leisure in

Continued on page 9



A child with the latest in remote-controlled toy cars (Photo: dpa)

Technology for the housewife at Cologne

Cooking is becoming more and more the job of the invisible power from the power point than of the harassed housewife who used to complain of slaving over a hot stove. The cooker, the washing-machine, ironing and garbage disposal are now largely controlled by the modern jacks-of-all-trades automation, electricity and electronics.

This year's hardware and household equipment fair in Cologne is a truly international affair with products from 1,450 firms in 34 different countries on show in fourteen exhibition halls. It seems that the modern housewife must know more about the language of technology than recipes if she is to manage her kitchen successfully.

Sophisticated cookers have to be correctly programmed like a computer to produce a cooked meal at the scheduled time. The tumbler drier must be given clear instructions like the servants of old so that it knows whether to dry and air clothes ready for immediate wear or whether to leave them damp enough for ironing.

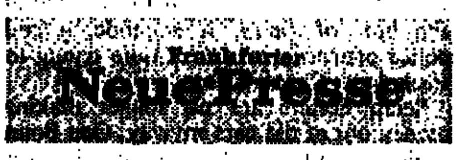
But even if the housewife is not on the ball technology can come to her aid. The latest coffee-maker is so cleverly designed that a warning light comes on when the layer of fur is too thick. Modern water heaters switch themselves off if they are accidentally knocked off balance. And foldaway cooking equipment gives a warning shriek if a forgetful housewife should try to fold it away while it is still hot.

More automation, greater comfort and better safety precautions are the trademark of the latest developments in contemporary household gadgetry. But that does not mean that attractive designs and plensing colours are neglected.

Consumer goods for kitchen and dining room are probably brighter than ever, sometimes as a result of new materials being used – enamel handles on stainless steel cutlery for instance. Designs today are much more varied than they were in the past.

One dominating trend is the "rustic look" complemented in part with shapes and styles taken over from kitchens two generations ago (old iron pots, for instance) side by side with the most modern lines.

With large gadgets, however, fashions and fads are of minor importance. The most important aspect of these is that it must be possible to stow them away easily. At this year's Cologne fair designers have obviously paid greater attention to the less spacious kitchens in the design of washing and washing-up machines, fridges and deep freezes, as well as other usually bulky kitchen equipment.



In their catalogues the word "Kompakt" recurs perhaps more than any other.

There are many mentions of "new" items in Cologne, but generally speaking this really means further developments, improvements and modifications of old ideas.

But one thing that is genuinely new is a material rather like stoneware which is said to have many of the properties of china. Other new ideas include a piece of equipment that reduces kitchen waste to about one fifth of its original bulk and a waste and faeces freezer for camping and weekend houses worked by electricity, which "seals" the waste products in ice.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 7 February 1972)

■ AUTOMOBILES

Beetle ousts Tin Lizzie

A queen in the history of motoring has been dethroned. At a juncture when economic trends are chilly for the motor industry in general and Volkswagen in particular Wolfsburg, the home town of the Volkswagen, has a unique reason to celebrate.

On 17 February the Volkswagen Beetle bettered the legendary production record of the Model T Ford, America's Tin Lizzie.

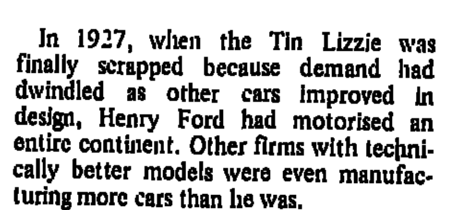
In the 45 years that have elapsed since 1927 no motor manufacturer anywhere in the world has come remotely near producing more than 15,007,033 units of a single car.

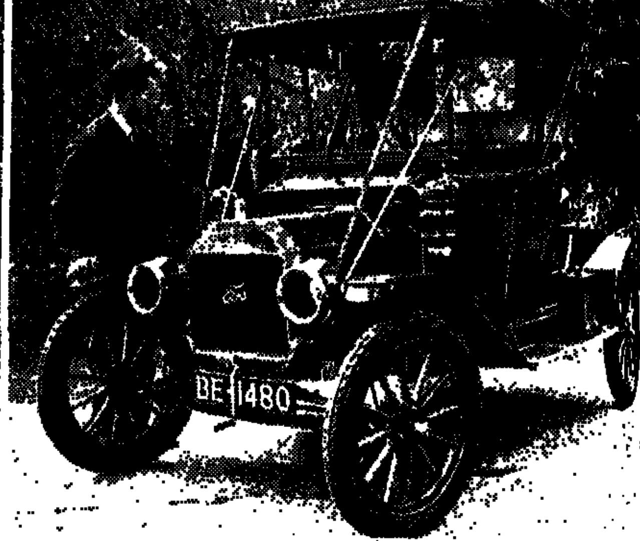
The 15,007,034th VW Beetle ran gaily decorated off the assembly lines to take over as the most popular motor car of all time and is likely to remain at the top for a long period.

Henry Ford was the man who taught mankind the rudiments of motorisation. His Model T, first manufactured in 1908, introduced entirely new principles into motor manufacture.

Ford's plant was the first to introduce assembly-line production. He transformed a luxury mode of transport for the rich into a vehicle for the general public. "Have your own car," his slogan ran, a sales line for the world's first Volkswagen, as it were.

Stiff-legged Tin Lizzies carted vegetables to market, lumbered across the prairies, did duty as the first police patrol car and drove the family off for a picnic over the weekend.





(Photo

In 1927, when the Tin Lizzie was finally scrapped because demand had dwindled as other cars improved in design, Henry Ford had motorised an entire continent. Other firms with technically better models were even manufacturing more cars than he was.

It was one of the ironies of fate that the British of all people were responsible for the manufacture of the first regular Volkswagen, the car Hitler had promised the German people.

Nineteen years after the demise of the Tin Lizzie Major Hirst, the British control officer, took over the Volkswagen works, two thirds of which were in ruins as a result of wartime bombing.

The gigantic industrial complex intended by the Nazis to manufacture a 990-Mark car for the German general public could have been scrapped and dismantled in 1945 but Major Hirst came to like the Porsche design and reached a decision, maybe more for sporting than for any other reasons, that was to be of major importance.

"Might even build a few cars," he ruled, and the 917 Volkswagens built in 1945 for the British were the first ever to leave the works, which until then had manufactured service vehicles only. Soon the idea of scrapping the works had been completely forgotten.

The rise of the Beetle to international success is inseparably linked with the name of Professor Heinrich Nordhoff, an impassioned car-maker from General Motors who set up automobile production records that no one would have thought conceivable within a few years.

The millionth Beetle to run off the assembly lines on 5 August 1955 was the occasion for festivities all over Wolfsburg.

Subsequent millions were registered with self-confident reserve, Volkswagen having meanwhile become the largest motor manufacturer in Europe and this country's major exporter. The Beetle was at home in 140 countries.

The Beetle is a classless car like no other. It has survived three decades as a technological evergreen, outliving dozens of models designed to oust it from its spot in the sales charts.

The Wolfsburg design engineers realised where Henry Ford made his mistake. A model cannot be allowed to age no matter how inspired the design is.

Over the years every single component of the Beetle, with two minor exceptions, has been altered. Many of the 5,000 parts have undergone changes since 1948.

Volkswagen now have a payroll of 124,800 in this country and over the world as a whole more than a million people earn a living from the products of Volkswagen of Wolfsburg.

Helmuth Schmidt

(Kieler Nachrichten, 12 February 1972)

Pay now, scrap later

Motorists may in future have to pay for the scrapping of their cars in advance – as part of the purchase price. The Bundestag home affairs committee has come up with the proposal should it prove impossible to deal with abandoned cars in a less expensive manner.

This year alone more than a million motor vehicles are due for the junk yard in this country. A million cars parked nose to tail would fill all four lanes of the autobahn from Hamburg to Munich.

The home affairs committee has now called on the Federal government to ensure that scrap cars are dealt with economically.

More often than not cars are abandoned at the side of the road after their owners have taken the trouble of filing away the engine and chassis numbers.

They may have resorted to this subterfuge after trying in vain to interest scrap dealers in their old cars but the net result is that parking space, valuably needed at the best of times, is squandered and police officers waste their time trying to track down the offenders.

Scrap dealers are no longer making money out of old cars anyway. One Bonn dealer lamented that scrap metal prices are on the decline, wages on the increase and no one is interested in the stuff any longer.

The "stuff" is of no interest to the motor industry because it contains remnants of upholstery and splinters of glass. Usable waste products can only be provided by a shredder, of which there are as yet only three in the country.

They are located in Bremen, Essen and Nuremberg, cost three million marks apiece and shred an old car to its original components in a matter of seconds.

More shredders are soon to be built, including one in Cologne, and Düsseldorf scrap-dealers feel sure the new plant will cater for current demand.

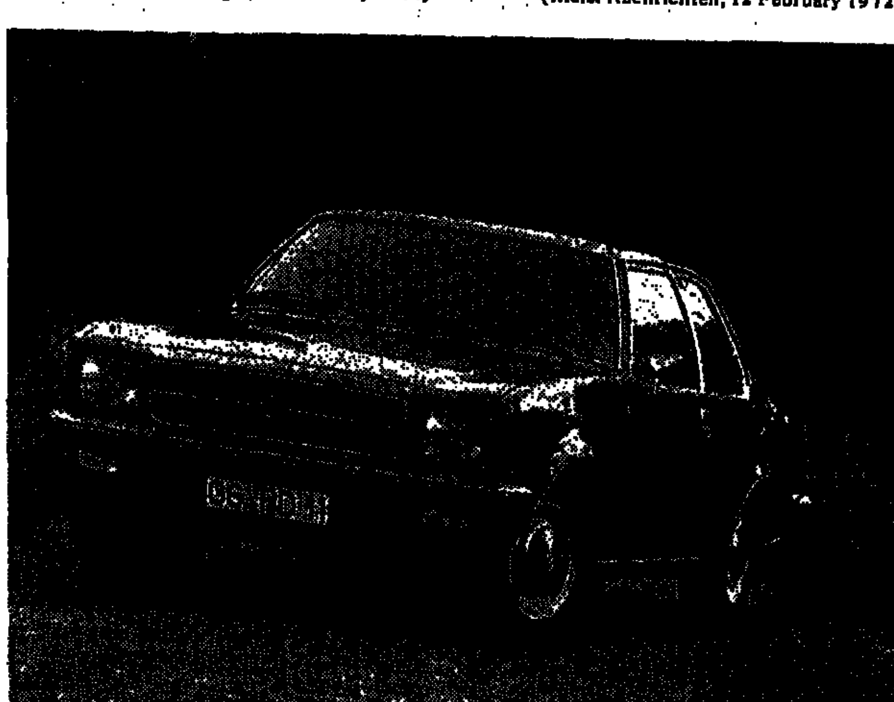
During debate on the Garbage Removal Bill the Bundestag home affairs committee called on the Ministry of the Interior to produce by the end of the year a detailed report on the ways and means of economically dealing with old cars and tyres in other countries.

If necessary, the committee felt consideration ought to be given to the possibility of charging car-owners who will at some stage be responsible for a motor vehicle needing scrapping.

In other words, buyers of new cars may have to pay in advance for a fitting burial of their gleaming four-wheeled pet.

Hannes Scholten

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 11 February 1972)



The new Opel Rekord II (Photo: Opel)

Opel introduce new Rekord models

With a total production figur date of more than four and a million the Opel Rekord is Europe's successful car in the medium-price saloon range. The last version, introd in 1966, has run to 1,400,000 units.

The introduction of a new version Opel of Rüsselsheim is worthy of no the strength of its predecessors' performance alone.

In terms of engineering the Re Mark II would appear to be a chip of old block and the range of en available has not changed either.

There are three short-stroke four der engines to choose from, two 1. and a 1.9-litre version.

"The 1.7-litre engine runs on prem grade fuel and develops 66 horse po just as it used to. The 1.7-litre en using super grade develops 83 h power (as against the present 75) and 1.9-litre version develops 97 horse po and is capable of a genuine 100 mph.

To look at, the Rekord has under drastic changes. The sturdy but uni native American has developed in model with international flair.

This applies in equal measure to two- and four-door versions and coupés which can definitively be class a four-seater.

The new Rekord is a sporting Europ in more than mere outward appeara Considerable alterations have been m to the chassis, too, though with altogether abandoning the original de concept.

At the wheel it is immediately appa that the changes have been for the go Directional stability, even during em gency braking, has been improved t great extent, as has road-holding corners.

The same is true of suspensi shock absorption, though the Rekord has a long way to go before i compete with French cars of the s class in ease of suspension.

Built-in safety has also been impr to no small extent in the new Rek The bodywork is specially designed cave in at certain points and part o pany with certain components when crunch comes.

Range has been increased by enlar the tank from 55 to 70 litres and the versions of the Rekord can be said to an improvement on their predecesso every respect.

Unfortunately the improvements money and the prices have also increa The price in this country is betw 9,285 and 10,795 Marks.

(Die Zeit, 4 February 197

■ ENVIRONMENT

Legislators face traffic noise dilemma

Frankfurter Rundschau

Traffic forecasts for the next ten or twenty years almost invariably talk in terms of an increase in the number of vehicles on the road but they make no mention of the increase in noise involved.

If the motor car continues to be given preferential treatment and parliament continues to do anything rather than upset the motor industry promises of making town and country fit to live in are destined to [illegible] unfulfilled.

A good half of the population of city centres and many suburban areas live and work under the strain of so much traffic noise that specialists whose opinion can be taken at face value agree there is a genuine health hazard involved.

Even with traffic density on the increase this need not necessarily be the case. This is another open secret that the powers that be are none too keen on being told.

Drastic measures such as are being resorted to in Switzerland need not even be taken. Switzerland has no motor industry of its own to take into account, so it can afford them.

What the Swiss have done is to ban all night driving for vehicles with a legal maximum weight limit of five tons and over with the exception of the fire brigade and the ambulance service.

Despite fears to the contrary the Swiss economy has not gone into a nosedive as a result either. If nothing else the authorities in this country could certainly take a leaf out of the Swiss book in respect of the rigour with which specially equipped Swiss police patrols enforce the regulations.

In Switzerland offenders stand to forfeit not only their vehicle log books but also their driving licences, and that in a country renowned for its democracy. Indeed, the appropriate legislation was introduced on the strength of a referendum.

In this country measures affecting traffic are for the most part permitted only to enforce road safety and keep traffic on the move. Law enforcement for purposes of noise abatement is an exception that only occurs in the case of really serious offences.

The law as it applies to motor manufacturers in this country stipulates merely that engine noise may not exceed the level that can reasonably be expected in view of technological developments at the time in question.

As a result there is nothing to stop manufacturers from producing not only relatively quiet water-cooled engines but also noisy air-cooled four-cylinder engines, thundering diesels and the two-wheelers driven at breakneck speeds by speed-crazed youngsters.

At a specialist conference on road traffic noise one expert readily admitted that there are any number of practical proposals for the construction of quieter engines but that so far next to nothing has been done.

Mandatory limits are so generous that manufacturers hardly need bother. As in so many cases compulsory measures have to be undertaken before common sense prevails.

Statistical details are listed by S. Nagel in an article in *Umwelt*, the ecological journal, entitled "Noise on the Roads."

The Federal government's town and country planning regulations specify an upper noise level of fifty decibels during the day and 35 decibels at night in residential areas. In Sweden, by way of comparison, the mandatory limits are 35 and 25 decibels respectively.

Measurements taken on a Düsseldorf main road in 1965 a couple of feet away from ground-floor windows revealed an average noise level of between 72 and 79 decibels and an average maximum of between 79 and 84 decibels.

These figures are seven years old. In the meantime the noise level is bound to have increased by a decibel or two.

Conventional windows, as opposed to special insulation, reduce noise levels by between ten and twenty decibels. Yet this is a state of affairs that has been neglected both in town and traffic planning.

The realisation that cities and towns are for living in rather than for driving around in seems to be taking an unconscionably long time to sink in.

Yet as long as private cars benefit from tax concessions, public transport is less public transport authorities charge unfavourable fares and operate inconvenient timetables and the car continues to be a status symbol the motor industry and its lobby will continue to have the upper hand. Unless, that is, a miracle were to happen and designers were suddenly to recall that they are well able to design quieter cars.

Heinrich Apert/PAM

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 15 February 1972)

Continued from page 7

complete idleness. An occupation for the hours away from work is essential for most people.

For many reasons, too, the attitude towards achievement and productivity is changing. Status symbols as a proof of success are becoming less important than they were in the past. More and more people are coming to realise that activity without any tangible end product, that is to say *play* in its purest sense, is of importance. Many people feel genuinely better after a period of unproductive activity.

And the danger that toys could become status symbols should not be overlooked. When sports cars begin to pall people may show off complicated and expensive toys to their friends and colleagues. When fun and play becomes a part of the desire for status symbols it ceases to be fun, ceases to be play.

Rudolf Großkopff

(Die Welt, 9 February 1972)

Water resources should be cared for more

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Mice appear to be having the time of their lives this year. Instead of drowning in rain and slush as most of them do at this time of the year they seem carelessly to be increasing in number, according to the Bavarian Farmers Association.

In many parts of the country there has been next to no rainfall since last summer and mice seem to be deriving more benefit from the fact than men.

In Kempten motorists are having to forgo the Sunday wash and brush-up of their cars and in Bamberg too, another drought-prone area, water shortages are in the offing.

These are, admittedly, only isolated instances but they do serve to underscore the extent to which Man is dependent on water.

Last autumn the water table in many parts of the country had already reached minimum levels, according to the Federal Waterways Research Institute.

The trend has continued and most reservoirs are now also virtually empty. Even if rainfall is to return to normal over the next few months there will remain an initial shortage.

The shortage will affect not only the farming community but also supplies of drinking-water. Industrial consumers are not so hard-hit since they mostly use river water and the water-level of rivers returns to normal after only a day or two of rain.

Yet with so little snow in the mountains the spring and summer floods will be conspicuous by their absence and if there is not much rainfall either river water will also prove problematic.

The last major water shortage in this country was in 1964, the pundits recollect, but the drought was not catastrophic. This time there could be catastrophic consequences for local authorities that just averted catastrophe last time but have since neglected to increase their water resources yet increased in population and probably taken on more industry as well.

Munich waterworks, for instance, as yet unable to draw on the reserves of one major reservoir, are worried that there might be a considerable water shortage during the Olympics this summer – assuming the dry spell continues, that is.

People are not going to go thirsty but they may have to go short. Even in Central Europe, which can boast plentiful supplies of water, there are limits to the amount of industry a region can accommodate that relate to water reserves.

The manufacture of a ton of paper, for instance, is reckoned to "cost" some 200 cubic metres (roughly 50,000 gallons) of water. Large power stations use anything up to several million cubic metres of water daily.

Resources are no longer unlimited. The Rhine, for instance, cannot be used as a source of cooling water for yet another power station.

We can no longer afford to cover the country with concrete, asphalting fifty hectares (125 acres) of woods and fields a day. Quite apart from any other consequences this is land that used to filter off water for the water table.

In West Berlin, for instance, where sixty per cent of the city's surface area is built up, the level of the water table falls by a steady two to eight inches a year.

We can no longer afford to give away water, as it were, for a few pfennigs a cubic metre. Resources are not unlimited and we must stop behaving as though they were.

Martin Urban

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 February 1972)

Air pollution is a severe threat to trees and shrubs

In the course of a season one large tree can absorb the lead content of 130 litres of petrol from the atmosphere and render it harmless by converting it into lead phosphate. This by-product is insoluble in water and is stored in the body of the tree, where it can cause animal life no further damage and leaves the tree unscathed too.

Large concentrations of lead can harm plants, though, particularly when they suffer from shortage of phosphates. Surplus lead affects their metabolism somehow or other and the leaves wither and die.

The situation is a good deal more complicated as regards sulphur dioxide, which is liberated wherever coal and petroleum are burnt. Five million tons of sulphur dioxide are pumped into the atmosphere every year in this country.

On smoggy days in Frankfurt the concentration of sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere reaches a level of between 0.3 and 0.55 parts per million. Over longer periods a concentration of 0.14 parts per million is considered to be the permissible limit.

Plan physiologist Professor Hubert Ziegler is currently engaged in research at the department of botany at Munich University of Technology. With the financial assistance of the Federal Republic Research Association he is probing the effect of lead and sulphur dioxide on the cellular structure of plant life.

Professor Ziegler tends to feel that the danger level for sulphur dioxide is roughly the same for both plants and animals. Conclusive evidence is not yet available but it looks as though sulphur dioxide is as harmful to vegetation as it is to homo sapiens.

In the course of a year a large tree is capable of counteracting some twelve kilos of sulphur dioxide. Within the leaves small concentrations of SO_2 are initially incorporated into the cellular metabolism.

With the aid of radioactive tracers the sulphur dioxide's progress around the organism can be followed.

Part of the sulphur dioxide is converted into sulphate, a form in which plants take sulphur from the soil in any case. It is subsequently used in the compounding of such vital substances as amino acids and protein.

Paradoxical though it may sound, a moderate concentration of sulphur dioxide in the air can serve to boost yield. Small doses evidently function as a fertiliser.

As soon as plants such as spinach or tobacco are subjected to a greater concentration of sulphuric gas than they can, as it were, stomach the trouble starts. The leaves wither and lose chlorophyll.

Since chlorophyll is a crucial factor in the photosynthesis of organic substances from sunlight, carbon dioxide and water researchers have gone into this point in closer detail and discovered that when the concentration of sulphur dioxide reaches a certain level not enough carbon dioxide is processed by the cells responsible for photosynthesis.

Further experiments indicate that the crucial enzyme, a protein that compounds carbon dioxide and converts it into organic foods, becomes confused, possibly by the molecular similarity of sulphur and carbon dioxide. The process of photosynthesis certainly pretty well grinds to a halt.

Lichen, which respond more sensitively than any other plant species to atmospheric pollution because they contain such a limited amount of chlorophyll and are capable of storing large amounts of atmospheric substances, cease photosynthesizing after three days of high-level sulphur dioxide pollution.

Where lichen stops growing there is almost invariably a high concentration of sulphur dioxide in the air. It is probably a clearer indicator of the extent to which the environment is in danger than the majority of measuring devices.

Christa Steuer

(Der Tagesspiegel, 12 February 1972)

■ THINGS HEARD

Jesus musical opens in Hamburg church

Münchner Merkur

Some two million people in the United States, Australia and London have already sung its praises. *Godspell*, along with *Jesus Christ Superstar* the most successful of the so-called Biblicals, has now had its first performance on the European mainland in Hamburg.

It was also a world premiere in one respect. For the first time ever bishops and pastors had officially accepted the genre of the pop musical. *Godspell* was performed within the venerable walls of St Petri in the city centre.

As the church's eight hundred or so hard seats will not be enough in the long run the show is to move on 23 February to Hamburg's most famous landmark, St Michaelis, which has far more room.

American John Michael Tebelak, 24, wrote *Godspell*, taking the text from St Matthew's Gospel literally. The old stories about Golgotha and Gethsemane are told, though without the earnestness of the Oberammergau Passion Play, as 44-year-old producer Norman Foster stresses. Christ's life and passion is being presented more as a fantastic story from the promised land.

"For almost two thousand years the Gospel has been taught and has provoked boredom," Foster states. "We tell the story of Jesus with a sense of gaiety, without a raised index finger and without a sense of compulsion. We do not force the audience to believe. We only want them to listen to us."

Foster worked six weeks on his disciples from all over the world in order to overcome Hamburg audiences with a wave of what is probably naive piety.

Godspell was written in prison. Tebelak was arrested during a church service for allegedly possessing drugs, or so the story goes. Sitting in his prison cell, Tebelak decided that all could not be well with the world and resolved that people should listen to Christ, if only in a musical.

The unusual success of *Godspell* prompted two members of Hamburg's high clergy to travel to London to see the musical for themselves.

On their return Head Pastor Quast of St Michaelis and Pastor von Schlippe of St Petri expressed their enthusiasm. Pastor Quest recommended that his confirmation classes should see the musical.

Pastor von Schlipp said, "The musical questions the established church but at the same time seeks contact with it. Something unbelievably human can be seen in *Godspell* despite all its gimmicks and exaggeration. There are no problems brought up. You suddenly find yourself in the middle of an exciting sequence of events that is tremendously liberating and comforting."

Von Schlippe suddenly became "West Germany's most courageous theatre director" when he placed his church at the disposal of the *Godspell* ensemble. Hamburg's church authorities gave their permission.

Producer Foster and his actors stress time and again that *Godspell* is not a product of the Jesus movement such as the musical *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Instead it is a continuation of the message of flower power – people must love one another and enjoy life.



A scene from *Godspell* performed in the St Petri church, Hamburg (Photo: dpa)

Foster chose the ten young actors – five males and five females – from among the more than 1,500 applicants. Two of the actors come from the United States, one from the Lebanon, four from Austria and three from Germany.

The stage used for *Godspell* is a simple wooden platform, the stage decoration is St Petri's altar. The only props are an eight-foot high wire fence and two wooden blocks made up of planks.

Foster mainly uses the methods of the *commedia dell'arte*. Pantomime, gaily-coloured patchwork costumes, dancing, singing and the music ranging from country and western style to jazz are all intended to remove any pathos from the action.

Hamburg's theatre bosses are looking on at this spectacle with mixed feelings. On the one hand they are glad that the city's image as an international centre of the lighter muse is being improved a little but, on the other hand, many of them would have liked to have had *Godspell* in their own theatre.

Applications for tickets have come from throughout the Federal Republic and even from abroad. The premiere and the following performances were booked out weeks in advance despite the not exactly low prices.

People in Hamburg were not shocked by the notorious sex musical *Oh, Calcutta!* and neither are they roused to indignation by this "Oberammergau Pop" as a critic described *Godspell* rather maliciously.

Some of the stall-owners selling hot dogs, flowers and roast almonds under the walls of the church on the busy Mönckebergstrasse hope that the actor in Jesus' role will not follow the example of his predecessor and drive them out of the temple. They, like Norman Foster, are hoping to do good business with the help of *Godspell*.

Thomas Wolgast

(Münchner Merkur, 10 February 1972)

Handel's *Julius Caesar* performed in Bremen

It was a quiet, windless February Sunday in Bremen. Parents walked the streets with their children. The remains of recent snowfalls lay by the roadside. A few people were handing out pamphlets.

"People of Bremen", the pamphlet stated, "The Bremen theatre has been discussed and its productions seen in Paris, London, Zurich, Florence, Belgrade and Venice.

"Senator Moritz Thape has now dismissed the man who brought fame to this theatre and its team and helped make the name of Bremen known abroad. Help us prevent the Bremen theatre from sinking into oblivion. There is no suitable successor in sight. Sign our petition!"

The campaign was successful On the first day six thousand signatures had been collected for theatre director Kurt Hübner.

On the Sunday evening Handel's opera *Julius Caesar* was performed in the Theater am Goetheplatz. At first there was amusement at the stage design and special applause for well-sung arias, especially those by Cleopatra (Kay Griffel) and Cornelia (Maria Sandulesco).

This later gave way to unrest among the audience. There were boos and whistles. A few indignant theatre-goers left the auditorium, slamming the door behind them. "Play Handel, not Hübner," a powerful male voice demanded.

But was it not Handel that was being played? It was certainly Handel's music, under the expert guidance of conductor Hermann Michael, once an assistant to Herbert von Karajan.

Admittedly, little was left of the well-known, conventional, pompous Baroque decoration. About the only remnant was the flashing cold helmet swung dramatically by bariton Dale Düsing. He plays Caesar in tails, a party-goer under palms and pyramids.

The scenery with its swimming pool and small bar is erected ingeniously and in pop fashion by Wilfried Minks inside a giant grand piano. The keyboard forms the edge of the stage.

This treatment sweeps away the misleading pathos of the pseudohistory surrounding Caesar, Pompey and Cleopatra that Handel was given by librettist Nicola Haym.

Producer Klaus Michael Gruber, who used to work with Strehler at the *Piccolo Theatro*, does not think much of the old, true-to-style and therefore museum-like and boring productions of Handel operas that are usual elsewhere, including nearby Hamburg.



A scene from *Julius Caesar* performed at the Theater am Goetheplatz, Bremen (Photo: Andreas Buttmann)

Grüber explains the plot of the opera in the programme. His notes for scene one read: "Handel opens his piano. Caesar o the field of battle. This time in Egypt. Archaeological remains stand around party decorations. Everything is, rel History is a masked ball and a social event. Baroque art needs a grand subject to develop grand means. It takes its subjects seriously, plays with them and is entertaining. The victorious Caesar intoxicates himself on the blood of the dead. A waiter wipes up."

This description alone shows the message of this intelligent and taboo-breaking production – as long as Hübner is in Bremen the Bremen theatre will remain faithful to what has become known as the Bremen style.

Just as Peter Stein's production of *Tasso* exposed the structure of a society giving rise to Goethe's noble drama Grüber, with the help of Minks and the harshly-attacked actors, uses this production of *Julius Caesar* to show what Handel experienced but omitted – his distress and the misery of his period.

When the facade of Baroque art is mercilessly destroyed, the intelligent onlooker will see what is indestructible and what is dispensable.

Handel's music remains indestructible or at least undestroyed right up to this very day. Oppression and murder are

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■ THINGS SEEN

James Rosenquist works on exhibition at Cologne

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

It all began with salami. With waggon-wheel sized adverts for sausages on Coney Island, with gigantic whisky bottles in Brooklyn, with garage advertisements and with the ten foot high head of Kirk Douglas on Broadway.

James Rosenquist was a billboard painter. What he put on the facades of houses in New York was "popular" and what he transposed on to canvas was "Pop". Pop-art at first sight at least.

He has never denied a naive fascination with the world of consumers and advertising. This is a suggestion he made again and again in his suggestive paintings.

But at the same time this canvas facades are permeated with the streaks of a painter's reflection alienating objects and observers, unsettling them, attacking them. A summary of his work is being exhibited by the Wallraf-Richartz Museum at Cologne's Kunsthalle in early March.

Images of the big city have penetrated into Rosenquist's work with violence and it is with violence that they come pouring out of him and shatter in large pictures.

F 111 is the little of the largest, named after the controversial American fighter plane. The picture is 26 metres long, two metres longer than the actual plane.

This is like a gigantic frieze from the Parthenon handed down to the contemporary temple of art and this conveyor belt of civilisation shows consumer goods and items that are supposed to make us happy monstrously enlarged on the metallic basis of destruction, a cake with a pennant showing vitamin content, car tyres, bulbs, a smiling child under a hair-drier, an atomic-bomb mushroom under a sunshade, bubbles from a skin-driver and threads of spaghetti-like intestines.

Towering over everything and penetrating everything there is the fighter-bomber stretching from one edge of the picture to the other. This picture, first exhibited by Leo Castelli in New York in 1965, shows the whole Rosequist, the poster-like super mural, the super-Technicolor, the terrorising montage of fragments of pictures like flashlight photographs harsh and fast.

Of the 51 pieces of this colossal work one is missing from Cologne. Its owner, collector Robert Scull who runs New York's largest taxi fleet, has retained it in his country house.

The pathetic appeal of these icons of pop culture has long since given way to the sober observation of neo-Realism and the astounding effect achieved in the early days has given way to recognition of a big bluff. With ninety exponents gathered together Rosenquist's pompous pictorial gestures shrink in significance to become scarcely valid signs.

For example I include among these the iridescent *Flamingo Capsule*, an environmental painting associated with the complexes of space travel reflected in metal foil panels to the right and left. Here Rosenquist's genius with colour bubbles over: "Painting is a great laugh. I hope eternity is brightly coloured."

Brightly coloured oblivion – is that after all the quintessence of what Rosenquist himself once called "visual inflation?"

His is the principle of permanent montage of noodles and cars, a woman's head and a duck's neck, sandwich and sun. It is Pop-Surrealism with futuristic chaos, realistic details and dadaistic titles and today we can see the limits and weaknesses of it all.

It may well be that Rosenquist himself sensed this. He said recently: "I'm no longer so interested in painting as I was." He intends to turn his attention to filming.

This exhibition in Cologne will not be appearing anywhere else in Europe and will only later be moving on to America. The results of Rosenquist's latest ideas were not on show in Cologne, but one of his latest creations was in the Kunsthalle stairwell, with coloured neon tubes and scarecrow-like fluttering aluminium foil, entitled *Aurora Borealis*.

Peter Sager

(Der Tagesspiegel, 10 February 1972)

Rosenquist's *Capillary action* painted in 1962 (Photo: Katalog)

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dispensable though they have not been dispensed with yet.

The fact that this source of irritation could not be concealed by the transfigurations of music was the real source of irritation in the Bremen production, a fact presumably not recognised by the people who booed.

The Bremen pyramid party presents a lot of entertainment with its pop, comic pathos and Handel music. Not all features are equally as good. Not everything has succeeded.

Bremen took the middle course. Mauricio Kagel went further with his *Staatstheater* in Hamburg. He did not only question the framework of opera. He also turned his attention to its music and instruments.

But Grüber's production, that left Handel's music untouched, was more than enough for the booers in Bremen.

The last two scenes were only played over tape. The programme waxed lyrical: "Caesar and Cleopatra tear open the heavens to arrange their stars as they desire. Servants attach wings to their feet. Handel can no longer keep them. It was a beautiful evening."

Yes, it was a beautiful evening, though not for everybody.

Kurt Lothar Tank

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 13 February 1972)

Art of the thirties exhibited in Wuppertal

Major style changes in the various art forms have the power to survive even brutal and dictatorial interludes in the history of a country. Emancipated new ideas may be temporarily suppressed by the régime, but they will never be killed off completely.

This fact which can probably be put down to the "genetics" of art is proved most easily in West Germany by reference to those art forms that emerged in the mid-twenties, began to develop in the early thirties and were cut off in their prime in 1933.

But the twelve years of "grossdeutsche" culture only interrupted these new art forms and styles – they were not able to eradicate them completely.

Proof of this thesis has lately been provided by the Von der Heydt Gallery in Wuppertal with its broadly based exhibition entitled *Um 1930* (Around 1930).

It is an exhibition of the pictures, architecture and tools of the late twenties and early thirties, which works from this basis and creates links between this period and the events in art, architecture and photography in our day.

Looking back now we can see that around the mid-twenties a remarkable inroad was made into the aesthetics of this century. Expressionism and Cubism had played out their pivotal role and the "new rationality" was coming to the fore. Soon this dominated the sense of form of this period.



Walter Gropius' design for a car body for the Adler works (Photo: Katalog)

New technological possibilities caught up architecture in their wake and consumer goods came to take on shapes and forms suggested by the materials. These forms were shown in the manufacture of objects, even purely utilitarian objects such as pottery, glasses, dinner services and cutlery, all of which had "timeless" forms and were not subjected to any of the dictates of fashion.

At this exhibition we can see that china and glassware designs by such as Trude Petri, Adolf Loos and Richard Süssmuth are still being produced, which shows how modern and forward-thinking the designs of the 1930s were.

Obviously in sectors where technology has progressed by leaps and bounds, such as motor manufacture, the designs for bodywork of the 1930s lag far behind the present-day styles.

Even Walter Gropius enjoyed designing car bodywork for the Adler Factory.

Furniture is a different matter. "Modern" steel tubing and plywood construction for furniture was being introduced consistently at this time. The Wuppertal exhibition underlines how this progressive furniture of the thirties varies little from standard designs of today.

But it was architecture that most clearly took the step into the world of modernity in the thirties. Steel frameworks and reinforced concrete were the major developments that can be put down to architecture in the 1930s.

This included the exclusive kind of architecture designed to be shown at the great international exhibitions where it was meant to stand out, as well as private building and status-symbol architecture. And the thirties saw the beginning of the "little boxes" style of architecture which attempted to house as many people as possible in little flats with balconies in front of their living room.

The Wuppertal exhibition also gives over a section to the advertising posters of the 1930s. The greatest innovation characteristic of this time is the blending of picture and slogan, which was used to particularly great effect in the agitation posters of the Weimar Republic and of revolutionary Russia.

In all spheres, however, geometry had got a grip on aesthetic awareness. It is particularly the application of geometry in painting that has aged the fastest in the past forty years. But on the other hand in the human-symbol pictures by Oskar Schlemmer with geometric mechanical men are perhaps most clearly still symbolically pertinent to our day.

Wolfgang Stauch von Quitzow

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 8 February 1972)

■ EDUCATION

Commission recommends reform of high-school entry procedure

When a child becomes ten years old his parents and teachers have to make decisions on his behalf that often predetermine his future education and career opportunities.

The road forks after the fourth class of elementary school. The pupil is faced with the choice between high school and secondary modern.

If he enters high school it is more or less determined that he will one day attend a university or college of further education – unless he is found to be unequal to the demands of the high school in which case he must switch to a secondary modern or go out to work right away.

One negative feature of our education system is that it demands decisions at too early a stage. A pupil's future education is predetermined for a relatively long period – nine or more years – while he is still young because the elementary school stream divides into secondary modern and high school streams too early.

Steps have been taken in recent years to make it easier to switch from one type of school to the other after the initial choice has been made but no reform of this type stops people from thinking of a switch from high school to secondary modern as a disgrace.

Politicians specialising in education have long been on the lookout for a method to cut the risk involved in changing schools at the age of ten. They are aiming at a selection process that will guarantee as far as possible that pupils chosen for the high school will be equal to its demands.

The old entry examination and the few days' trial lessons are inadequate. It takes longer than a few days or a few hours to find out whether a pupil, especially a nervous pupil, will make the grade and maintain a good standard up to the school-leaving examination.

A reform such as that introduced by Bavarian Education Minister Hans Maier a year ago represents a considerable improvement. Pupils wishing to enter high school are accepted without trial as long as their teachers believe that they are suitable material. This depends on a number of factors including grades and the results of tests. The only children who need attend trial lessons are those whose teachers describe them as unsuitable or only suitable to a certain extent.

This procedure was adopted last year at Bavarian schools for the first time and has already reduced the risk of wrong decisions. The fear of high school has decreased.

But it is still unsatisfactory. The Bavarian Teachers Association recently wrote to Minister Maier stating that the reports drawn up by teachers when pupils wished to switch to a high school were no sure guarantee against failure. The opportunity the elementary school teacher had of observing his pupils was not great enough to be able to forecast their further school career.

It is only when the pupils are confronted by the curriculum and new teaching methods of the high school that there will be any indication of whether they are suited to education there or in a secondary modern, the association claims. Pupils should not be deprived of the chances offered by a period of probation, as the association put it.

The association concluded that entry examinations should be abolished. Instead, there should be an experimental year during which any difficulties pupils found in adapting to the new situation and any temporary trouble in learning could be cured by appropriate educational methods.

The Bavarian teachers' proposal only went half as far as the Educational Council two years ago in its structural plan for the education system and the joint Government-Federal state Commission three months ago in its intermediate report for the overall educational plan.

The Educational Council called for the introduction of a two year "orientation" stage after the first four elementary school classes. One of its most important arguments read, "A number of investigations into the results of streaming in the first six school years shows that early streaming and selection processes are clearly detrimental to poorer scholars and not apparently linked with an increase in the performance of the more talented pupils, apart from those at the highly selective elite schools."

The joint government-Federal state Commission seconded the proposal by calling for the first two years of secondary school to be made into an orientation stage.

But the members of the commission were unable to agree on details. The government and the Federal states ruled by the Social Democrats want an orientation stage that does not depend at all on the type of school. It should not be attached to the elementary school or the high school. The CDU/CSU Education Ministers did not commit themselves.

Behind this disagreement on what is apparently a formal issue lies the old argument about the comprehensive school. The CDU/CSU want to stop the introduction of the orientation stage from becoming one step on the way towards the comprehensive school.

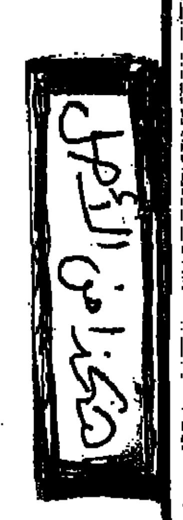
It therefore seems doubtful whether the Bavarian Education Minister will accept the proposal put forward by the Bavarian Teachers Association. The teachers would attach the one-year trial stage to the elementary school or high school depending on local requirements.

But the syllabus would have to be standardised so that there would be no differences between the elementary school and high school for a further year and pupils would be spared the bitterness of returning to elementary school after a few months or a year.

Gernot Sittner

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 2 February 1972)

Little progress in university reform



The Arts and Science Council has appealed to universities and colleges of further education in the Federal Republic to be more purposeful in carrying out reforms than they have been in the past.

A report on the present state of further education has recently been sent to the government in Bonn, the Federal states and the universities themselves stating that university reform has made little progress.

Referring to the political situation, the report states that an alarming exremism is to be found in a number of places though, as the new chairman of the Arts and Science Council Professor Theodor Heidhues claims, it cannot be described as dangerous to the Federal Republic's social order.

Despite an overall picture that is extremely varied, there is evidence of the trend that the universities are involved more with themselves and their organisation than with their actual role, the report states.

The situation report is based on a number of talks held by members of the Arts and Science Council at a total of 45 universities and colleges of further education during a five-week tour of the country last summer.

Though the situation at individual universities is not discussed it is pointed out that further education institutes as a whole are faced by serious difficulties of adaptation.

The increased amount of time needed for purposes of administration is almost all to the detriment of research. Students complain that there have been no real improvements despite a number of minor reforms.

The report states that the supervision of the traditional courses offered is still in its infancy because of the lack of co-operation between universities, colleges of education and other institutes of further education.

Few places have fully developed ideas about teacher training. The beginnings of a contact study system can only be found here and there. Advice on studies is basically uncoordinated and uncontrolled. Curricula vary from university to university.

Few universities have concrete ideas on research policy and research planning. The Arts and Science Council attributes this mainly to the shortage of information. The financing of research projects is not given adequate attention, the report claims.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 7 February 1972)

Didacta teaching-aids fair to be held in Hanover

Education specialists from home and abroad will be making for Hanover between 14 and 18 March, when so many teaching aids will be on show at the eleventh *Didacta* that the description "European Teaching Aids Trade Fair" is almost an understatement.

Nine hundred firms from 25 countries will be exhibiting in four halls at Hanover's trade fair site. Dr Goertz of the Teaching Aid Association told the press that this year's *Didacta* would be the largest and most important exhibition of its type in the whole world.

The exhibition is being held against a background full of explosive relevance. Questions of education policy are more in the forefront than at the last *Didacta* four years ago.

Educational planning now seems to have got over its period of stagnation thanks to government initiatives, and is the central theme at the exhibition alongside the commercial interests of the exhibitors. The range of *Didacta* stretches from pre-school education to universities.

The arrangement of the exhibition has been improved considerably this year with the result that visitors will find it easier to gain some impression of the large number of branches represented.

These range from school furniture and school maintenance to computer-based education. Special mention must be given to printed teaching media, audiovisual soft wares, such as slides, projections and films and audiovisual, hard wares such as equipment, automatic machines and data banks able to give and evaluate answers. The dataprocessing equipment is intended for use in school administration.

Important stimuli are expected from the seven specialist conferences taking place during *Didacta*, including an audio-visual forum, a special schools day, congress on rational education and discussion about the work of UNESCO.

Apart from the Federal Republic and over five hundred exhibitors and firms Britain, the United States, France, Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands, Italy, Denmark, Australia, Spain, Belgium, Canada, Austria, Israel, Norway, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, Portugal, Japan, Finland, Rumania and Russia will also exhibit their wares at *Didacta*. Ten exhibitors from the German Democratic Republic will also exhibit in Hanover.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 2 February 1972)

Cologne service acts as guide through education maze

A butcher is no longer satisfied wielding a meat-axe and would like to swap his bloodstained overalls for a judge's gown. A captain from Hamburg is tired of a life at sea and would like to drop anchor in Cologne and lead a landlubber's existence as a teacher.

The fact that there are ways of doing this is nothing new. But the Federal state governments that organise these further training courses and that are also responsible for turning a normal education system into a complicated maze have up to now neglected to issue a guide through the school and education labyrinth.

This meant that though the reforms introduced in our education system offered more and more chances and opportunities adults with a thirst for knowledge and the parents of children of school age were no longer able to see the wood for the trees.

The city of Cologne has now taken the initiative and provided help for its inhabitants by establishing the "Central Educational Advice and Publicity Agency", the first and so far only institution of its type in Europe.

The agency's three women employees and their male boss will tell people in Cologne how they or their children can approach the maze of schools, special schools, vocational schools, universities, evening classes and other institutes of further education in order to obtain the desired qualifications.

The city of Cologne had already set up an advisory service in 1958 with its school psychiatrist service, in actual fact the responsability of the Federal state.

While the school psychiatrist service shows a person his undiscovered talents, the new advisory service tells him how to awake these dormant talents.

The city of Cologne hopes that the North Rhine Westphalia government will one day have mercy upon it and take over the responsibility for the Central Education Advice and Publicity Agency and as for other educational schemes that the city has organised.

The new agency is just one more example of the fact that a city council is able to respond to the needs of the population more spontaneously and directly than an anonymous Federal state government with its much clumsier administrative apparatus. And the city of Cologne seems to be particularly active as far as initiatives of this type are concerned.

If the city were to obey the demands of the North Rhine-Westphalia Taxpayers Association it would have to lower its sights somewhat. As the towns and Federal states get more and more in debt the only possible course open will be to demand more taxes for more services.

Michael Wesener

(Die Zeit, 21 January 1972)

■ SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Human contacts and understanding can prevent suicide

A total of 15,564 people died in road accidents in the Federal Republic and West Berlin in 1965, a figure that has now risen by about 25 per cent. In the same year 11,779 people committed suicide. In comparison 666 people fell victim to crimes of murder or manslaughter. The number of suicides is therefore not much less than that of fatal road accidents. While everyone from road-users' associations to Transport Minister Georg Leber are doing all they can to improve the situation on the roads, little seems to be done to prevent potential suicides. It is just as easy to recognise a potential suicide as it is a potential road victim – both are, with certain restrictions, impossible. The ratio of sixteen to twelve shows that the suicide factor in our lives should not be ignored and should not be considered a person's private affair.

Few people are so heartless as to look the other way when they could save a person's life. Children will always be rescued from danger, the seriously ill will always be rushed to hospital and a car-driver will have any serious defects in his vehicle pointed out to him.

People are willing to help in situations where help is possible. This is particularly true for the fire brigade, rescue teams, emergency medical staff and all those who save lives as part of their job. They often risk their own lives to help others.

That is why it may appear surprising that there are few people around to help in other situation – namely, when a person decides to kill himself.

This would not involve a "rescue" in the normal sense of the word. There would be no need for physical activity, no dive into a river and no climbing into a burning house.

The only thing necessary, both physically and psychologically, would be a person's presence. This is what is important. "Suicide," as French poet Paul Valery writes, "is the absence of all other people."

The fact that few people are present to help is linked less with an unwillingness to be of service as with the widespread ignorance of the events surrounding suicide and the way a potential suicide can be prevented.

Men such as the Berlin psychiatrist and theologist Klaus Thomas and the Austrian Professor Erwin Ringel and investigations and surveys by the Geneva-based World Health Organisation have recently led to there being more solid information on suicide, the committer of suicide and suicide prevention.

But do the people who could help if the case arose have access to this information? Do they know how they could be of assistance? In fact, would they recognise the danger signs?

It is not the unwillingness to help that encourages if not prompts many suicide cases but ignorance and, what is worse, misleading ideas and views that have been refuted a long time ago.

One of the worst is the belief that a person who always talks about committing suicide will in fact never do so. Many people still believe this but the opposite is true. A statement of intention, perhaps only brought up incidentally, is an alarm signal that must be taken seriously.

The fact that such a misunderstanding could spread is linked with the theory of a psychiatrist who is himself long dead. Hoche spoke over fifty years ago of pre-meditated suicide.

Today's statistics show that suicides following a careful consideration of a person's situation are very rare, if not non-existent. Hoche's ideas are not valid as a suicide theory and they were wrong half a century ago when first put forward.

Instead, we know that suicide is the end of a long illness. Of course, these people suffer from serious cases of conflict, most of which are based in questions of sex, love and marriage. But behind these conflicts there is nearly always a serious mental illness, often in the form of depression.

The conflict normally seems more harmless to an outsider than to the sick person himself. It is evident to other people but there seem to be solutions to it. Why should anyone kill himself for a reason like that, friends, even the closest friends, ask?

If Hoche's theory were valid, they would be right. A sober analysis of a situation would nearly always end in the conclusion that there was no real reason for suicide.

This overlooks the fact that the conflicts could set off the final mental crisis. Behind the conflicts there could also be mental complaints such as depressions, neuroses and schizophrenia that all have one thing in common – there is effective medical treatment for them, first of all in the form of drugs and then psychotherapy.

Anti-depressive drugs should only be used in cases of emergency. They cannot replace treatment, such as an operation, but they can guard against sudden excesses. Anti-depressives do not solve conflicts but they do prevent acts whose effects could not be reversed.

As Klaus Thomas writes, "Suicide is the only act of annihilation where the executor and the victim is the same person. As the perpetrator of the deed, all suicide cases are sick and therefore not responsible for their actions. But as the victim, they need to be protected from themselves."

To protect the victim, a person likely to commit suicide needs people he can trust. Usually they will be people he has known for some time.

They could also be people such as vicars or the Good Samaritans' telephone service. Of every ten thousand cases admitted to Dr Thomas' special care service for potential suicide cases in West Berlin, 526 were sent by doctors, 342 were transferred from a hospital, 4,364 came of their own accord, 385 were sent by clergy, 2,225 were sent by the telephone service, 187 by the authorities and 1,971 by their own family.

One fact that has long been proved still sounds odd to nearly all people who have had nothing to do with suicide or potential suicide cases – people who want to commit suicide seldom ever want to die.

They do not want to die but are only convinced that they are unable to continue living under existing conditions. When the mental reasons for suicide are overcome, the conflicts seem more innocuous in most cases. If the old mental complaint returns suicide may be attempted again even if there is no serious conflict.

Apart from Hoche's old theory and its consequences, another much more recent though basically ancient suicide theory is currently misleading people.

The main causes for suicide are not to be found in the social structure, whatever this theory may claim, but in the mental health and conflicts of the individual.

This does not mean to say that the conflicts cannot depend on a large number of economic factors and that they cannot be attributed to social conditions but the structure of society itself plays as subsidiary a role as a motive for suicide as the urge to kill.

A person who is healthy to any degree is proud of his freedom of will and simply cannot imagine that this freedom is nonexistent for someone wanting to commit suicide.

Nobody freely chooses to kill himself. Man is a slave to his neuroses and depressions and is enchained by his sickness. Dr Klaus Thomas states, "Compulsion overcomes an unguarded human who does not really want to die but is looking for people who can give him a helping hand in his intolerable position."

Researchers used to be interested primarily in the ways of committing suicide. They registered them and tried to draw conclusions from these figures without considering the large number of unknown cases.

This large number of unknown cases has not decreased in the meantime, especially since fatal road accidents have been investigated in the light of whether they are successful suicide attempts.

There are also a large number of cases where the true motive is not known. It is often found that even the closest relatives of a person who has committed suicide do not have the slightest idea of the actual reasons.

It is good to know all this but does it help us at all? Is it enough to prevent a single case of suicide?

Of course. "Anyone liable to commit suicide needs psychiatric and psychotherapeutic treatment more than anything else. This alone promises and guarantees within a short period an end to the suicide threat, though without always effecting a complete cure," Dr Klaus Thomas, probably the biggest suicide expert in this country, wrote in his book *Menschen vor dem Abgrund* (People on the Abyss) published in Hamburg in 1970.

One case described by Dr Thomas should provide an example to all of us who are willing to help yet know little about the subject. It sounds quite commonplace, almost self-evident. But it is not.

Thomas writes, "In a firm employing 150 workers only the youngest girl there, a nineteen-year-old stenotypist, noted the rather odd and withdrawn personality of the one-armed porter and telephone operator.

"When she saw him climb the stairs one evening when the office was closing, she followed him and at the last moment stopped him from throwing himself from a window in the top storey.

"She took him to her flat, rang up her fiance, a student, who called up the Good



Samaritans. This girl's exemplary conduct saved a human life.

"Everyone can stand by his friends, neighbours, relatives and colleagues in their times of trouble, stop them from becoming lonely and know about the remedies and expedients of expert advice and treatment."

It may also be useful to know of the infectious nature of suicide. Reports of Marilyn Monroe's death led hundreds of men and women to make suicide attempts of their own.

Two thousand years ago there was also a suicide epidemic amongst the young girls of Miletus. The authorities announced a strict ban and threatened drastic punishment – any girl found after an attempted suicide would be stripped naked and whipped on the marketplace.

Today a measure like this does not seem to be practical, probably because we know less about suicide and its contagious effects than the authorities of Miletus.

Not one girl needed to be whipped on the marketplace. The decree had its desired effect and no more girls tried to commit suicide. People grumbling about the "oppressive behaviour of the authorities" have no understanding of the mental origins of suicide in its epidemic form.

Wolfgang Bartsch

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 January 1972)

Hospital situation improves

A report issued by the West German Hospitals Association in Düsseldorf shows that the Federal Republic has one of the best medical services in the world with 112 hospital beds per ten thousand inhabitants.

The only countries to improve on this total are Sweden with 144 beds, Finland with 138, Switzerland with 137, Australia with 123 and Japan with 119.

In 1970 the 3,587 hospitals in the Federal Republic had 683,254 beds, a hundred thousand more than ten years ago. But this service costs a considerable amount of money. The hospitals made a record loss of 1,200 million Marks in 1970 alone.

In 1970 hospitals admitted a total of 9.3 million patients who were treated by 46,550 doctors. Almost half of all West German doctors work in a hospital.

The clear improvement in the hospital situation during the last ten years is also reflected in the fact that there was an average of 14.7 beds to a doctor in 1970 while it was still nineteen beds per doctor in 1960.

The number of nursing staff increased to over 175,000, including 92,714 nursing sisters. Nurses had an average of 3.9 beds to look after in 1970 compared with 5.3 beds in 1960. There is however still a shortage of 35,000 to 40,000 state-registered nurses.

The Hospitals Association believe that investment totalling milliards of Marks are unavoidable if the standard of the West German hospital service is to be maintained.

A total of 12,700 million Marks must be raised in the next four years. The budget and medium-term financial planning make allowances for only 8,800 millions when the two-thirds contribution of the Federal states is considered.

Professor Hans Werner Müller, the Hospital Association's chief managing director, warned emphatically against allowing hospital building to stagnate.

Discussions on a law governing hospital finance had, he said, led to the discovery that the Federal states, and local authorities were in no position to continue hospital building, even at the present rate, if they were also obliged to spend such a lot of money for hospital upkeep as well. That would be tantamount to subsidising State sickness insurance schemes, he commented.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 February 1972)

■ OUR WORLD

More and more people go in for pet-keeping as a hobby

Human participation in the world of animals is astonishingly widespread. It is not only that dog and budgie, pony and cat are to be found in one in three West German households but also the number of keepers of aquariums and "terrariums", carrier-pigeon breeders and rearers of highly bred poultry is considerable.

Understanding for the plight of animals is growing and virtually everyone at least knows of nature conservation areas such as Serengeti, even if they have never been there.

The World Wildlife Fund set up in 1950 has members in more than sixty countries and the number of zoos, zoological gardens and nature conservation areas is growing.

This was not always the case. Hunting and commercial exploitation came close to making many types of animals extinct and not just in previous centuries.

The town council of Zürich passed the

Frankfurter Rundschau

first animal protection laws as far back as 1525. Obviously people in those days did not even realise their responsibility towards domesticated animals.

In olden days some forms of animals were considered sacred. The Germani protected the horse and for millenia the snake of Aesculapius was considered sacred. India has its sacred cows and the holy apes in certain districts of Africa still enjoy human protection and indulgence.

Long before zoological gardens became a part of the nation – and in the nineteenth century a flourishing business man began to take an interest in animals, cats, dogs and songbirds were taken into people's parlours and lived with the family. Rooms were filled with stuffed birds and small animals and not only active hunters but also people who had never wielded a gun liked to have hunting trophies on the wall.

Television has helped to intensify sympathy for animals. Along with the factual travelogues there have been countless series in which the star was from the animal kingdom: Fury and Champion the wonder horses, Flipper the dolphin and Daktari's immortal squinting lion Clarence and chimp Judy.

Books and comics tend to extend children's knowledge of the animal kingdom with both scientific works and popular journals. It has been calculated that between 1958 and 1968 no less than 4,000 works were published on the monkey world alone.

Today there are many collectors of material on the animal world. Whales and butterflies, wart-hogs and beetles – whatever member of the fur and feather brigade you happen to be there is someone somewhere collecting all available data on you.

Animal lovers will tell you all about the snake farm in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and that one gram of cobra poison is enough to kill off 165 people.

Their interest may centre around the abnormalities that crop up, such as the four-legged sparrow and the cow with two heads, but sometimes the attraction of the animal world goes far deeper than such sensationalism.

Dr Fey has built up a complete beetle farm on the shore of Lake Starnberg. Visitors can see beetles from all over the world at all stages of growth and development – tens of thousands of them.

A doctor in Buchenberg in the Black Forest, Dr G. G. Amsel, owns the most valuable private collection of Persian moths. A man in Aschaffenburg has built up a bug museum with 1,500 different species including the useful water and plant bugs.

The James Stephan collection of 90,000 beetles is kept at the natural history museum in London as well as Gould's humming bird collection with several hundred of the jewels of the bird world.

In Rio industrialist José Allaldilid keeps owls. And Matthew C. Brush, an economics expert, has a collection of 2,000 elephants in gold, silver, glass and wood.

A London member of the Rothschild family has built up a collection of fleas and James Brighton in Chicago collects mice, the largest of which is as big as a squirrel.

Some animal-lovers restrict themselves to pictures or prints of their furry friends. Jenning Larsen in Stockholm has the world's largest library of books on zoological gardens. In print he has the most important zoo of modern times.

Aztec emperor Montezuma built up a zoological park with aquariums, terrariums, conservation areas, cages and aviaries in the garden of his palace on the highlands of Anahuac in the city of Tenochzitlan near the Texococo lake 470 years ago.

Even if you have no idea of breeding or taxidermy there are many forms in which a love of animals can be expressed in a hobby even if it is just collecting newspaper reports of the performances of circus animals. *Peter Omm*

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 January 1972)

Cream of the feathered world at Essen

DIE WELT

The feathered crème de la creme of the racing pigeon world held its annual meeting in the Gruga hall, Essen, this year. For two days the fastest and the most hardy birds of the West German pigeon fanciers association put up bravely with the envious and proud stares of the many visitors to the event.

The stronghold of the racing delight of the small man is no longer in the shadow of factory chimneys. Many pigeon lofts in the eves of homes in the Ruhr have disappeared as a result of town-planning. Farmers now do well out of what the miners living in skyscraper blocks of flats have to do without. The pigeon has moved out into the countryside, although as ever most breeders are to be found in the Ruhr area.

More than 100,000 fans belong to the 9,000 pigeon fancier societies in this country. Last year, so one breeder in Essen estimates, more than 3.8 million birds were bred. A whole industry has been built up around homing pigeons, not only are clocks for timing racing birds made but firms also provide medicaments against intestinal complaints and special equipment for feeding them in their cages.

And the music industry is not far behind. For a long time pigeons have been a stock in trade in the lyrics of songs. And the transport industry has not done too badly out of providing transport for birds being returned to their home lofts.

One cock pigeon was given the undivided attention of fanciers in Essen. He had flown 6,300 kilometres (about 4,500 miles). In cage 512 there was a female winner who was the wonder of official delegates. She had flown from Argentina to Hungary.

The official magazine of the racing pigeon fancier's association said: "There is a lack of knowledge on the basic aspects of the racing pigeon sport." It called for a new image for pigeon breeders and said "breeding is a difficult art". *Hans-Werner Loose*

(Die Welt, 31 January 1972)

Animal Protection Society calls for improved animal protection laws

Severe criticisms were levelled at modern methods of mass-breeding animals for domestic use at hearings on proposals for new legislation concerning animal protection.

Dr Hans Jürgen Weichert of the Bundestag's agricultural committee – he is also a member of the West German Animal Protection Society – maintained that intensive breeding methods were degrading to animals, making of them merely objects of utility in our society.

Dr Weichert spoke against the considerable increase in the use of animals for experiments as well. He said that there



should be a review of the rules concerning the use of animals in research. A change in legislation was urgently called for.

The question of clipping animals' ears and tails sparked off considerable controversy. Legal proposals have been made forbidding breeders to do this, except in the case of hunting dogs.

The Animal Protection Society maintains that clipping ears and cutting off a dog's tail is nothing more than a persecution for animals or a chasing of fashion. But the dog-lovers association is against any such prohibition, maintaining that clipping ears prevents diseases to a dog's ear passages and that cutting a dog's tail protects the animal from injury from thorns, bushes and barbed-wire. This is particularly important for trained dogs working with the police and rescue agencies.

But the society does demand that the operation should be affected under anaesthetic. The Animal Protection Society demanded that the animal should be given a period to recover.

The new animal protection law should be passed during the next legislative period. The Bundesrat has not raised any objections to the legislation. Representatives of various interested organisations were heard at the hearing.

Despite a number of amendments of a minor sort the views of modern animal breeders were accepted and recognised than further protection for animals was needed.

The Farmers' Union stated that West German agriculture was prepared to accept all requirements that were made by approriate authorities in agriculture, although market competition should be borne in mind.

Poultry breeders requested that modern breeding methods should be approved since they were not methods that ill-treated the birds.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 9 February 1972)

Bear friend

A 69-year-old pensioner in Bonn could not get over how the authorities forcibly separated him from his friend of many years, a fully-grown grizzly bear. Armed with an axe he forced his way into the cage where Bobby was being kept at a slaughter house and refused to move until the authorities changed their minds about Bobby.

He refused to listen to any arguments and sat tight in the cage with his hirsute friend. Only after a four-hour sit-in with the bear and lengthy discussions with police officers, a lawyer and government officials did he agree to leave the cage.

With tears in his eyes and a written guarantee from government officials that he would be able to keep Bobby the pensioner returned home.

The battle for the bear began when Bonn officials took the view that keeping the animal on a waste lot alongside the Rhine was too dangerous.

The officials took steps and had Bobby forcibly taken to the slaughterhouse although it was not intended that Bobby should be killed only that he should remain there in the safety of a cage until a new home for him could be found.

The Bonn officials are now faced with the problem of satisfying what they consider the public interest to have the bear put under control and the affection the old man has for his grizzly bear.

(Kieler Nachrichten, 26 January 1972)

Master and dog

Dog-owners choose the kind of dog they will have according to the type of person they are, according to a survey recently carried out involving 3,000 dog-owners in West Germany.

The survey was made public by the society of dog owners in Hamburg.

The people questioned in the survey connected the qualities they sought in a dog with women and men. It follows that tolerant people, families with children and "contented people" owned a dachshund.

People who were nature fiends owned sheepdogs or mastiffs, St Bernards, Newfoundlands or Great Danes. Quiet bourgeois types bought cocker spaniels.

A poodle was defined as a dog showing affluence, owned usually by "sophisticated types and women of elegance". People who looked upon themselves as sporting types and full of energy had a boxer at the end of a lead. People with children also bought boxers because they were considered "friendly and well-disposed towards kiddies".

Mongrels were favoured by unconventional and young people as well as old people, who often had a genuine love of dogs and felt drawn to mongrels.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 5 February 1972)

Game damage

More than 180,000 collisions occur annually between motorists and ground game, according to figures released recently by the West German hunting association and made public by the West German Agriculture Minister Josef Ertl.

Between forty and fifty deaths are caused in this way and although the amount of damage has not yet been assessed Herr Ertl said it was expected to be "fairly considerable."

A considerable portion of the damage done to property by game is covered by comprehensive insurance policies which, since 1967, have given motorists cover for accidents involving ground game. More than 80 per cent of motorists have policies of this nature.

(Neue Hannoversche Presse, 25 January 1972)

■ SPORT

Olympic gold for Monika Pflug

In a stylish sprint that was a pleasure to watch from start to finish and seemed to come with all the ease in the world seventeen-year-old Monika Pflug of Munich and Innzell created *the* sensation of the Olympic speed-skating events in Sapporo by setting up a new Olympic record of 1 min. 31.4 sec. for the 1,000 metres and winning the gold medal head and shoulders in front of her competitors.

She set up the record in her third race and outclassed the rest, including world record holder Anne Henning of the United States and Ludmila Titova of the Soviet Union, another favourite who won the 500 metres at Grenoble.

They both ran immediately after Monika but failed to improve on her time. Thirty-three-year-old Dutch housewife Atje Keulen-Deelstra came in second in a time of 1 min. 31.61 sec., followed by Anne Henning (1 min. 31.62 sec.) and Ludmila Titova (1 min. 31.85 sec.).

Dianne Holum of the United States, the Olympic victor over 1,500 metres, covered the distance in 1 min. 32.41 sec. but this was only good enough for sixth place.

The evening before Monika Pflug had attended a reception given on behalf of the Olympic cities Munich, Denver and Montreal. She was still rather proud of having come fifth in the 500 metres.

At half past eight she was packed off to bed by Olympic coach Herbert Höfl. On the morning of the day she got up at six, having slept soundly from half past nine the night before.

She did her daily dozen, ate breakfast, was massaged by masseur Aloys Weinert and travelled to the stadium, where she warmed up.

At ten past ten on the morning of 11 February Monika Pflug slashed 1.2 seconds off Carry Geijssen of Holland's old Olympic record of 1 min. 32.6 sec.

"There then began the worst and at the same time most wonderful hour of my life," she later told a press conference. She was still a little on the young side and too friendly and unassuming to have fully grasped the significance of the Olympic victory that had thrust her into the limelight. There she sat, quietly happy.

For an hour she padded up and down in Makomanai stadium alongside her coach Herbert Höfl. Her performance topped the scoreboard: 17 Ger 1:31.40. If only it would stay there!

Anne Henning, Ludmila Titova, Nina Statkevich, Elli van de Brom and last but not least Dianne Holum failed to better her time. Monika dared not look while Dianne Holum was on the rink. Olympic gold was at stake, an incredible prospect in the life of a seventeen-year-old bookbinder's apprentice.

In the stands her friends Erhard Keller, Hans Lichtenstern, Horst Freese, Herbert Schwarz, Gerd Zimmermann and Monika Stützl were gunning for their team-mate. Keller borrowed a megaphone from a policeman. "Let me get myself worked up for once," he exclaimed. "I hardly have the opportunity when I am on the ice myself."

At ten past eleven Dianne Holum passed the finishing post in a time of 1 min. 32.6 sec. Monika had made it. Her team-mates fell silent. There was nothing more to be said.

Gold winners at the Sapporo Winter Olympics, Monika Pflug and Erhard Keller (Photo: Sven Simon)

"I couldn't really believe it until it was all over, the flags had been hoisted and I was sitting in the press centre between Atje Keulen-Deelstra and Anne Henning," Monika Pflug commented.

She did not have a great deal to say in answer to the journalists' questions. She was full of praise for the performances of her competitors but it was Erhard Keller, who acted as her interpreter, who added what really mattered.

"I gave her all the hints I could just as everyone else in the team did," he said, "but the victory is hers and Herbert Höfl's, her coach's."

Herbert Höfl sat quietly in the background. Few coaches can equal his success. He had seven entrants. Two of them won gold medals.

This country's speed-skaters came close to perfection, sprinting with seeming ease. Monika Pflug's style on the ice was also unimpeachable.

Günter Traub, a speed-skating coach with worldwide experience, said what Höfl could hardly point out himself. Monika Pflug was the "stylistically best sprinter of international standing on the ice."

Gerard Maarse, the Dutch coach, added that "Monika Pflug was the only one on the ice today to skate rather than fight the rink. That is why she won."

Gerd Zimmermann, a skater with eight Federal Republic championship titles to his credit, concluded that "Seven e trants in Sapporo and two gold medals is an achievement that will take some beating."

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 12 February 1972)

Speed-skaters make their mark at Sapporo

"It's unbelievable," seventeen-year-old Monika Pflug said on winning her Olympic gold medal at Sapporo. Hers was not the only unbelievable medal, but in the harsh world of top-flight sport Monika Pflug's story really does have a fairy-tale ring.

"Once upon a time," it could well begin, though the story did in fact begin less than five years ago. As a twelve-year-old she came second in her age group in the school speed-skating event. A year later she entered again but only came in seventh.

She continued to enjoy speed-skating nonetheless and joined a local club where she was given expert tuition. She won her first school race in 1969.

In 1970, when her famous current opponents were already winning world championships or setting up world records Monika Pflug made her first venture into the world of competitive sport.

A year later, at the 1971 European championships in Leningrad, she surprised the pundits by coming in fifth over 1,000 metres. The speed-skating coach of the usually all-conquering Russians made a note of her name.

Monika went on to set up one record after another. They may not have created much of a furore abroad since they were only national records that pulled little weight on the international scene.

She kept statistics compliers on their toes, though, at times setting up four new records in the course of a single weekend. Slowly but surely she drew level with the world's best.

The first pundits began to forecast that the future was hers. It can be said to have begun with her Olympic gold medal at Sapporo.

Monika Pflug will be eighteen on 1 March and not even her coach, Herbert Höfl, had expected her to come up trumps before 1976. But there it was. She is the first woman speed-skater from this country ever to win an Olympic medal.

This exciting triumph for an unpretentious Munich bookbinder's apprentice is of the greatest importance for speed-skating in this country.

The discipline first hit the headlines when Erhard Keller, also of Munich, won Olympic gold over 500 metres at Grenoble in 1968. He went on to win a world championship title at Innzell in 1971 and won his second Olympic gold medal at Sapporo.

This might have been all there was to tell but with Monika's success story one of the most aesthetically satisfying disciplines now stands a chance of survival at the top.

Three Olympic gold medals are all well and good but there can be no denying that apart from Inzell speed-skating in this country is a minor sport. The number of good skaters can be counted on the fingers of one hand – Keller, Zimmermann, Freese, Lichtenstern and Pflug.

Inzell feels it still has one or two promising youngsters up its sleeve but neither a second Keller nor a second Zimmermann are in sight, and with both men on the point of retiring speed-skating did not look too well off for talent as Sapporo drew nearer.

Now that Monika Pflug has pulled off her "unbelievable" triumph one of the numerically smallest sports associations in this country has one of the finest records on its books: three Olympic victories in four years.

The meteoric careers of Erhard Keller and Monika Pflug could well make speed-skating, which has long thrilled millions in Holland and Scandinavia, more popular in this country at long last. What is more, Inzell will probably no longer be virtually the only speed-skating rink in the country.

Even in Sapporo there were up to 50,000 spectators at the speed-skating rink. In Holland, Norway or Sweden, where the world sprint championships are to be held in three weeks' time, tens of thousands of spectators are nothing unusual.

In this country the crowds consist of a few hundred local people from Inzell and surrounding areas and a few hundred winter sports holidaymakers who also look on with interest.

This is a poor show for a sport that is so attractive to watch. Blame can hardly be laid at the door of this country's top-flight performers. *Rolf Heggen*

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 12 February 1972)

Aden	SA $ 0.05
Afghanistan	Af 10.—
Algeria	DA 0.60
Angola	Esc. 1.—
Argentina	$ m n 45.—
Australia	10 c.
Austria	S 3.—
Belgium	bfr 6.—
Bolivia	$ b 1.50
Brazil	N. Cr. $ 0.35
Bulgaria	Lev 0.05
Burma	K 0.60
Burundi	F. Bu. 10.—
Cambodia	R 4.40
Cameroun	F C.F.A. 30.—
Canada	Can. $ —.20
Ceylon	cR —.60
Chile	Esc. 0.60
Colombia	col. $ 1.—
Congo (Brazzaville)	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Congo (Kinshasa)	Makuta 7.—
Costa Rica	C 0 85
Cuba	P 0.13
Cyprus	11 d
Czechoslovakia	Kcs 0.50
Dahomey	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Denmark	dkr 0 90
Dom. Rep.	RD $ 0.15
Ecuador	S 2.50
El Salvador	C 0.30
Ethiopia	Eth. $ 0.30
Fiji	11 d
Finland	fmk 0.50
Formosa	NT £ 5.—
France	FF 0.80
Gabon	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Gambia	11 d
Germany	DM 1.—
Ghana	cedi 0.12
Great Britain	5 p
Greece	Dr 4.—
Guatemala	Q 0.15
Guayana	BWI $ 0.20
Guinea	F.G. 30.—
Haiti	G 0.65
Honduras (Br.)	$ BH 0.20
Honduras	L 0.25
Hong Kong	HK $ 0.70
Hungary	Ft 1.—
Iceland	Kr 5.—
India	Rs 0.60
Indonesia	Rp. 15.—
Iran	Rl 10.—
Iraq	50 fils
Ireland	11 d
Israel	I £ 0.40
Italy	Lir. 80
Ivory Coast	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Jamaica	11 d
Japan	Yen 50
Jordan	50 fils
Kenya	EAs 0.25
Kuwait	50 fils
Laos	Kip 60.—
Lebanon	P 40.—
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Madagascar	FM 30.—
Malawi	11 d
Malaysia	M. $ 0.40
Mali	FM 60.—
Mexico	$ 1.50
Morocco	DM —.65
Mozambique	Esc. 1.—
Nepal	Mohur 1.—
Netherlands	Hfl 0.50
Netherlands Antilles	G. ant 0.25
New Zealand	9 c.
Nicaragua	C 0.85
Niger	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Nigeria	11 d
Norway	nkr 0.90
Pakistan	Rs 0.60
Panama	B. 0.15
Paraguay	G. 15.—
Peru	S. 3.50
Philippines	P. phil 0.60
Poland	Zl. 0.50
Portugal	Esc. 1.—
Rhodesia	11 d
Ruanda	F. Rw 12.—
Rumania	Leu 0.50
Saudi Arabia	RL 0.60
Sweden	skr 0.60
Switzerland	FS 0.50
Senegal	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Sierra Leone	Le 0.10
Somalia	Sh So 0.90
South Africa	Rand 0.10
South Korea	Won 35.—
S. Viet Nam	V.N. $ 15.—
Spain	Pts 8.—
Sudan	PT 5.—
Syria	£ S 0.50
Tanzania	EAs 0.25
Thailand	B 3.—
Trinidad and Tobago	BWI $ 0 20
Togo	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Turkey	T £ 1.25
Tunisia	65 M
Uganda	EAs 0 25
UAR	PT 5.—
Uruguay	P 20 —
USA	$ 0.20
USSR	Rbl. 0.10
Venezuela	B 0.60
Yugoslavia	Din. 1.—
Zambia	11 d